The Semi-Weekly Times.

VOL. XII....NO. 1188. | NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1866. | PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SEMI-WEEKLY RECORD.

WASHINGTON.

CONGRESS.

In Senate, Jan. 30, Mr. WILSON introduced an important bill for the reorganization of the volunteer militia of the country under the general government, instead of the present separate State system. It was referred to the Military Committee. The Post-office Committee were asked to report as to the expediency of building or hiring telegraph lines along the principal mail routes, in effect making the telegraph a branch of the postal service. The President was asked to send in a copy of Gen. SHERMAN'S report of his observations in the South. The Judiciary Committee reported in favor of the legality of the election of JOHN P. STOCKTON as Senator from New-Jersey. (He was chosen by less than a majority of all the Legislature.) The bill to protect all people in their civil rights, regardless of race or color, was discussed by Mr. HOWARD and others until the hour of adjournment.

In the House, documents in reference to the surrender of the *Shenandoah* were sent in by the President; also, a report concerning the enlistment of hundred days' men. A bill was referred for the better organization of the Navy. A motion to admit to seats within the hall the as-yet-unrecognized members from Arkansas, was lost 64 to 64. The usual deficiency bill was reported. It was voted to print twenty thousand copies of the detailed report upon the manufactures of the country. The constitutional amendment came up in order, but after a brief colloquy, Mr. STEVENS moved to recommit without instructions, and the House so voted. An important resolution in regard to claims of Southern citizens was adopted. It is as follows: "That, until otherwise ordered, the Committee on Claims be instructed to reject all claims referred to them for examination by citizens of any of the States lately in rebellion, growing out of the destruction or appropriation of or damage to property by the army or navy while engaged in suppressing the rebellion." The House met in the evening to hear speeches on reconstruction, but only half a-dozen members came, and they adjourned without delay.

In the Senate, Jan. 31, Mr. LANE, of Kansas, presented a petition, signed by one hundred and twenty-four ladies of Kansas, in favor of suffrage for women. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. A bill was reported to extend the benefits of the pension laws to artificers of the army. A bill was introduced, by Mr. ANTHONY, to regulate suffrage and elections in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee for the District. A joint resolution of thanks to Admiral FARRAGUT was passed unanimously. The resolution to print five thousand copies of the Revenue Commissioners' report was passed. Mr. STEWART introduced a bill to grant one million acres of public land for the benefit of a mining college in Nevada; referred to the Committee on Public Lands. The civil rights' bill was then called up, and Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, spoke in opposition to the amendment, which declares that all persons born in the United States, not subject to any foreign Power, tribunal or authority, are citizens of the United States. After a somewhat lively debate, in which Messrs. DAVIS, LANE of Kansas, TRUMBULL, HENDRICKS and others took part, the Senate, without taking action, adjourned.

In the House, an amendment to the rules was adopted providing that the hall shall not be used for any other purpose than the legislative business of the House. Mr. WASHBURNE reported a bill, which was passed, to secure the rights of Maine lumbermen. A bill was also reported, but subsequently withdrawn, to repeal all the fishing bounties. Mr. STEVENS reported back the joint resolution to amend the constitution, with an amendment. A spirited debate ensued. The amended resolution was at length passed by a vote of a 120 yeas to 46 nays. On the conclusion of the debate the House took a recess. A brief evening session was held, but no business was done.

In the Senate, Feb. 1, Mr. [illegible] offered, for the consideration of the Reconstruction Committee, an amendment to the constitution, intended to define and enforce certain guarantees contained in that instrument. Mr. NESMITH offered a resolution in favor of an appropriation for the improvement of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Mr. POLAND offered a resolution of inquiry, which was adopted, proposing an extension of the jurisdiction of United States courts, so as to include all suits brought against [illegible] for acts done under the military authority of the United States and of the so-called Confederate States. Mr. FESSENDEN gave notice of his intention to call up on Monday next the constitutional amendment passed by the House on Wednesday. Mr. HOWARD offered an amendment to the resolution previously presented by him, recommending the trial of JEFFERSON DAVIS and CLEMENT C. CLAY, so as to include such others as acted in concert with them. Mr. HOWARD spoke at length, controverting the position of the Attorney-General that DAVIS must be tried in some one of the States where the treason was committed. The pending question being on the amendment to the bill for the protection of civil rights, declaring all persons in the United States not subject to any foreign power, to be citizens of the United States without distinction of color, Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, spoke in favor of the amendment. Mr. LANE, of Kansas, suggested the withdrawal of the clause which excepts Indians not taxed. Mr. HENDERSON moved that the words "Indians not taxed" be stricken out, and the words "Indians not subject to tribal authority," be inserted. The motion was lost. The amendment was finally adopted—yeas, 31; nays, 10.

In the House, Mr. DARLING presented the resolution of the New-York State Legislature relative to quarantine. Mr. CONKLING replied to the statements of an article in the Albany *Argus* reflecting on his course in voting for the constitutional amendment. He held that if every colored citizen in the State were enfranchised, it would not affect the congressional representation. If an amendment basing representation on the number of voters had passed, the State would lose three Representatives. Mr. MORRILL, in reply to a question of Mr. STEVENS, said that the committee had not yet acted upon the report of the Tax Commission, and therefore had not considered the proposition to reduce the tax on whisky to a dollar a gallon. A resolution was adopted directing an examination of the laws of New-Mexico relative to the relations of master and servant. The resolution inquiring into the expediency of graduating the [illegible] and rates charged by railroad companies for the protection of agricultural interests from oppression was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. The House resumed consideration of the bill [illegible] American vessels sailing under foreign [illegible] during the rebellion shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of American vessels unless by act of Congress. After considerable debate of the bill, by Messrs. GARFIELD, SPALDING, BLAINE, BANKS, [illegible] and WASHBURNE, it was passed, yeas 99, nays [illegible]. Mr. RAYMOND, in the contested case of [illegible] vs. BROOKS, from the Eighth Congressional District, expressed a wish to secure for the contestant an opportunity to be heard. Mr. ELIOT gave notice that he would to-day move the previous question on the Freedmen's Bureau bill. Mr. DONNELLY moved an amendment giving power to open schools in every district and furnish education to all persons who may apply, and spoke at some length in support of the amendment. Mr. DONNELLY'S remarks on the present status of the States lately in rebellion were reviewed by Mr. GARFIELD at length.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Philadelphia *Ledger* has the following dispatch from Washington: "The President refuses to interfere with Gen. TERRY'S recent orders annulling the Vagrant Act passed by the Virginia Legislature."

NEW-YORK.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate Jan. 30, a bill was noticed to give the owners or lessees of piers, wharves and slips in New-York more exclusive control of the same, when engaged in the transportation of passengers and freight for any regularly established line. Also, to change the route of the Broadway and Seventh-avenue Railroad. The bill to amend the act relative to consolidating the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York was passed; also to submit to the people at the next election the question of a new constitution. The Health bill being taken up, Mr. ANDREWS moved to amend by vesting in the Mayor of New-York full power in regard to the inspection of weights and measures; which was adopted. Mr. LOW moved as a substitute the appointment of five persons, three of whom shall have been physicians resident in the said district the four years preceding such appointment, and at least one of whom shall reside in the City of Brooklyn, who, together with the Health Officer of the port of New-York, and the President of the Board of Metropolitan Police, shall constitute the Metropolitan Board of Health. The amendment was opposed on the ground of its giving the commission a partisan basis, and it was finally rejected—ayes, 8; noes, 16. Mr. WHITE spoke at some length in favor of the bill. Mr. O'DONNELL said that he preferred that the Governor should appoint the Commissioners. Mr. HOYT moved to strike out the names of Drs. WOOD and MASON, and insert those of Mayors HOFFMAN and BOOTH. This amendment was opposed by Mr. PIERSON and Mr. LENT, and was lost. Other amendments aiming at the defeat of the bill were proposed and lost. The bill was made the special order for this morning.

In the Assembly much of the time was occupied in consideration of general orders. The bill to enforce the liability of receivers of insolvent corporations or joint stock associations for banking purposes was ordered to a third reading.

In the Senate, Jan. 31, the Health Bill was again under consideration. Various amendments were offered, among which Mr. MURPHY'S, similar to those he presented on Tuesday—one providing for the election of the Commissioners by the people, the other providing for their election by the Supervisors of New-York and Kings Counties. Both were voted down by a large majority. The bill was ordered to a third reading. Petitions were presented by the hydropathists and homœopathists for representation in the Board of the Metropolitan Sanitary Commission. A bill was noticed to restrain the New-York Common Council from authorizing or directing the leasing of any real estate, improved or unimproved property belonging to the city; also to authorize the Second-avenue Railroad Company to construct new tracks. A bill was introduced to authorize the Dry Dock, East Broadway and Battery Railroad Company to extend their tracks.

In the Assembly a bill was noticed to increase the salaries of the Metropolitan Police. The bill to authorize the Comptroller of New-York to issue fifty thousand dollars of water stock was passed; also the bill to authorize attorneys and counselors residing in other States to practice in the courts of this State; also the bill to enforce the liabilities of the receivers of insolvent corporations or joint stock associations for banking purposes. A bill for an elevated railroad in Broadway, New-York City, was introduced; also for a railroad in Grand and other streets; also to extend the railroad tracks in Grand and other streets, and to regulate the fare thereon.

In the Senate, Feb. 1, a bill was reported to extend the time for the collection of taxes; also to regulate the use of the slip at the foot of Broome-street so as to secure greater advantages to the market boats. A bill was introduced prohibiting the Common Council from leasing or otherwise disposing of any real estate, improved or unimproved, belonging to the city; also, to amend the charter of the Atlantic Savings Bank, by authorizing the trustees to reserve as a sinking fund fifteen per cent. of the gross deposits, to make good any reduction in the market price of any securities held by the bank; also, a bill authorizing the Second-avenue Railroad Company to lay new tracks. Appropriate resolutions on the death of Rev. ELIPHALET NOTT, late President of Union College, were adopted. The bill requiring magistrates to file and exhibit affidavits taken by them on the issue of criminal warrants, was also ordered to a third reading.

In the Assembly the bill to amend the Excise Law, also the bill defining the duties of Courts of Record in times of epidemic disease were ordered to a third reading. Resolutions on the death of Rev. Dr. NOTT were adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The great Northern wilderness of New-York State is threatened with railroads from all sides. In addition to the Saratoga and Adirondack Road, now in operation for twenty-five miles from Saratoga, the citizens of Utica are considering the plan of opening a line through the former John Brown Tract, diverging from the Black River Road at Remsen, running thence to the "Old Forge," near the foot of the Fulton chain of Lakes, and from that point direct to Utica. The immediate object of building this road would be to secure the lumber and fuel of that heavily-wooded country.

A destructive fire took place at Malone on Jan. 31. Loss about $20,000. The buildings are insured for $5,000, of which $2,000 is in the Home Insurance Company of New-York, and $2,000 in the Franklin County Mutual.

Orders were received at Elmira Wednesday for the discontinuance of that military post.

LOCAL NEWS.

Wednesday, at Cooper Institute, the colored men and women of New-York and vicinity assembled to ratify the amendment of the constitution prohibiting slavery in the United States. About an eighth of the large audience were of the caucasian race. After prayer by Rev. S. T. JONES, Mr. GEORGE S. SMITH, the Chairman, explained the object of the meeting, and introduced Prof. PATRICK L. REASON, who read Secretary SEWARD'S proclamation declaring that the amendment touching slavery had virtually become a part of the Constitution of the United States. Rev. STELLA MARTIN then addressed the assembly at great length, and said that if they were for a moment to admit (what certain Congressmen claim) that the eight slave States which had ratified the amendment were out of the Union, then there was no amendment, and the celebration of the evening was a farce. He wanted for the black man, 1, the right to labor; 2, the ballot, and 3, land. Mr. J. J. ZUILLE read a petition which the delegation of colored men in Washington have prepared for presentation in Congress, and Mr. THEODORE TILTON, who was received with marked applause, declared that slavery is not dead, and that whoever says that South Carolina has adopted the Amendment does not speak the truth. Mr. FREDERICK DOUGLASS, who was also roundly applauded, looked forward hopefully to the time when the black man should have the ballot. Patriotic songs by a choir of colored girls enlivened the exercises of the evening, after which many of the multitude repaired to a banquet in the lecture-room of Shiloh Church.

At Police Trials, yesterday, before Commissioners ACTON, BERGEN and MCMURRAY, the adroit, unprecedented robbery of the Greenwich Savings Bank was the conspicuous case. Superintendent JOHN A. KENNEDY made the formal complaint against Patrolman HERMAN STELLGES and Sergt. WM. A. VAN DUSEN, the officers by whom the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. GEORGE QUIN, the bank porter, were effected, and Mr. BENJAMIN F. WHEELWRIGHT, President of the Greenwich Savings Bank, was introduced as a witness. Officer STELLGES, who is a recent graduate of Inspector LEONARD'S Police Academy, was defended by Mr. CHARLES S. SPENCER. The burden of Mr. QUIN'S complaint was that the officer would not, when requested, take him to either the Greenwich Bank or the Greenwich Savings Bank, and that the Sergeant, instead of listening to his appeals, subjected him to the ignominy of incarceration, in irons, in a cell. Patrolman STELLGES, defending, said, with the deep emotion of an impulsive German, "A man in the full uniform of a Metropolitan officer approached me in Carmine-street, near Bedford, and asked whether I knew the person who was passing on the opposite sidewalk, with a tin box under his arm, and on my replying in the negative, he said: 'He's a bad fellow; he's going to get a supply of counterfeit money; Superintendent KENNEDY has instructed me to apprehend him; but I don't want to take him until he gets the spurious bills which will convict him; you wait here until he returns, and then aid me.' I aided in the arrest, and when the spurious officer said that Mr. KENNEDY had ordered him to take the counterfeits at once to Police Headquarters, and that he would soon be at the Station-house to enter complaint, I suspected nothing irregular." Sergt. VAN DUSEN said: "I acted upon the information given me by the patrolman, and understanding it to be one of Mr. KENNEDY'S cases, I dared not interfere, lest I should unwittingly spoil his job; I thought that my only course was to hold the prisoner until I received orders from Mr. KENNEDY." Inspector JAMES LEONARD, in response to a query by Mr. C. S. SPENCER, confessed that probably nine of every ten policemen of the Metropolitan force might have been deceived by this most skillful of robbers. And this is probably the last of the Greenwich Savings Bank robbery; for the rogue that was keen enough to deceive everybody so thoroughly will surely not be a dunce and fall into a trap with $6,000 in his pockets.

A robbery which nearly paralleled that of the Greenwich Savings Bank's porter came to light, Wednesday, at Police Trials. Inspector JAMES LEONARD, replying to the question of Mr. CHARLES S. SPENCER as to whether, during his twenty years' experience as an officer, he had ever heard of a more adroit robbery, said that he had. He had learned that at a jeweler's in Maiden-lane, on Monday afternoon, a man selected four gold watches and tendered a thousand dollar bank note. The dealer examined the note, and finding it genuine, naturally left it on the counter while he went to his safe to get change for the purchaser. But no sooner had the jeweler gone to his safe than a man who had just driven up in a coach dashed into the store and clapped irons upon the purchaser's wrists, and informing the amazed jeweler that the prisoner had stolen $1,000, suddenly discovered the $1,000 note and seized it, saying, "By my soul, this is the identical bill!" and then thrust it into his pocket. "But," said the jeweler, "he has four of my watches." "Well, Sir," responded the pretender, "he may have any number of stolen watches; but I, as an officer, am not authorized to adjudicate; only the Justice can do that; I shall hurry the thief to the Tombs, and if you appear at once and make the facts known, I dare say Justice DOWLING will give you the watches." Thus saying, the fellow bundled his prisoner off into the coach at the door. The jeweler went to the Tombs, and after waiting fifteen minutes, smelt a rat and told his story to Justice DOWLING, and that magistrate promptly enlightened him as to precisely what had happened.

The receivers of the Columbian Marine Insurance Company made an application to Mr. Justice SUTHERLAND, of the Supreme Court, Wednesday, through their counsel, Mr. DUDLEY FIELD, for instructions as to whether the outstanding policies should be canceled and the premium notes returned, upon payment of such part thereof as is already earned. It appears from the report made by the two receivers to the court yesterday, that the premium notes on hand and falling due at various periods within the year, amount to not less than $3,000,000, of which about $1,956,234 are unearned premiums, while the risks covered by the policies thereupon issued, amount to at least one hundred millions. Long arguments were made by several counsel. The court took the papers and reserved its decision.

The Chamber of Commerce held their monthly meeting yesterday at 1 P. M. The report of Mr. RUGGLES, Chairman of the committee on matters in connection with representation at the Paris Exposition, was read and approved. The sum of $2,500 was voted to the widow of JNO. TEMPLAR SHUBRICK, as a testimonial of the appreciation of the chamber for the services rendered by the Shubrick family to the country during three generations. The President of the chamber indignantly repudiated the charge made some time since by the Albany *Argus*, that the Chamber of Commerce was lending its influence and name in aid of an aspirant to the Collectorship of this port. Gen. STRONG introduced Dr. D. G. MACGOWAN, who purposes returning to China to pursue his investigations there. The chamber appointed a committee to take the matter of Dr. MACGOWAN'S mission into consideration.

The Board of Aldermen yesterday adopted a resolution directing the Committee on Streets to inquire into the expediency of adopting a plan for renumbering the streets somewhat resembling that in use in Philadelphia. The annual report of the Trustees [illegible] was received, showing an excess of $1,359 81 expenditures over receipts. A resolution was adopted requesting our representatives at Albany to urge on the Legislature the necessity of altering our emigrant laws so as to compel owners [illegible] to provide proper accommodations for such passengers. [illegible] to Monday next.

The Board of Councilmen met yesterday. A resolution directing that 3,000 copies of the corporation ordinances be printed, was referred. A petition from the Astoria Ferry Company, for permission to select another terminus for their ferry, was referred to the Committee on Ferries. The ordinance from the other board, regulating the granting of permits for stands, &c., on sidewalks, was laid over. The board adjourned to Monday next.

HENRY DAVIS, alias "Peanuts," was discharged yesterday, by an order of the Supreme Court, from the Workhouse, to which place he was lately sentenced for 60 days by a Police Magistrate. DAVIS was one of the nine who were arrested on Jan. 13, by the Detective Police, on suspicion of being pickpockets on the different lines of cars in this city. No direct testimony that they were pickpockets could be brought against them, and they were sent up for 60 days each, as vagrants. They have all been discharged on the ground of irregularities in the commitments. DAVIS is the last of the nine.

A motion was made Wednesday in the Common Pleas, before Judge BRADY, to discharge several parties defendant from an order of arrest. Among the number are two females, and Mr. VANDERPOEL, defendant's counsel, moved for their discharge on the ground, among others, that it is provided in the code that no female shall be arrested in a civil action except for a willful injury to person, character, or property. This is a civil action. The defendants have recently arrived in this city from Berlin, Prussia. It is reported that there is about $30,000 worth of property involved in the suit.

At a stated meeting of members of the American Institute, at Cooper Union, last evening, President WILLIAM HALL in the chair, and about fifty members present, the annual reports of the various committees were received and ordered on file. At an informal meeting of the members, a committee reported a list of officers for the ensuing year, with HORACE GREELEY at the head, as President, to be chosen at the annual meeting on Thursday afternoon next, at 3 o'clock.

Mr. DANIEL B. TAYLOR, the Clerk of the General Term of the Supreme Court, died at his residence in East Forty-ninth-street, on Wednesday afternoon, after a severe illness. An informal meeting of his friends and associates was held yesterday afternoon, in the County Clerk's office, Mr. WM. C. CONNER, County Clerk, presiding. Several resolutions were passed expressive of their regret, and condoling with the family of the deceased. Mr. TAYLOR was in the 51st year of his age.

Dr. MACGOWAN delivered an interesting lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association Wednesday, on the subject of "Aboriginal Americans." The speaker said that at the present time there are between 250,000 and 300,000 Indians in the United States. He predicted that the Digger Indians of California, and of the other mining States and Territories, would be exterminated within ten years, through the oppressions and injustice of the white man.

A jury in the Kings County Supreme Court Wednesday rendered a verdict in favor of THOMAS BREEN, who had brought an action against the Brooklyn City Railroad Company for $2,000, for damages sustained by being thrown off one of their cars. The car, it appeared, was crowded, and BREEN being obliged to stand on the platform, was thrown off and injured as the car whirled round a curve.

Gen. MARSHALL LEFFERTS gave the children of the Five-Points House of Industry a delightful entertainment Tuesday, in their play-room, introducing, for the occasion, a camera obscura, and exhibiting many fine pictures of Scriptural and European and American scenes and fancy sketches. About five hundred children were present.

Several incendiary fires have lately occurred in Williamsburgh. Three took place during Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Tuesday morning a fire broke out in the oil refinery of Mr. JAMES CHARTERS, corner of John and McWharter streets, Newark, N. J., caused by the bursting of a still in one of the outbuildings. The entire establishment was consumed, the loss being about $10,000. Three men—MARSH, BAILEY and SCHIEFFER—who were at work on the premises, were seriously burned.

The Friends of Temperance met last evening in great force at Cooper Institute at the call of the National Temperance Association. Speeches were delivered by Rev. Drs. CUYLER, FOSS, COX and others, and a number of new members were enrolled.

An unknown man, yesterday afternoon, who was laboring under delirium tremens, jumped from the deck of one of the South Brooklyn ferry-boats, and was drowned. An inquest was held by Coroner WILDEY, but no trace could be gained of the name of deceased.

In the case of the murder of ROBERT H. MITCHELL, mate of the schooner *John Benton*, who was shot and killed by PATRICK CONWAY, while the latter was attempting to rob the vessel, the Coroner's jury Wednesday brought in a verdict against CONWAY and censured the authorities for permitting CONWAY to be set at liberty, pending the investigation.

The Treasury-office received about $3,188,000 on deposit Wednesday at six per cent., on ten days' notice after thirty days. The rate is to be reduced to-day on new deposits to five per cent. The general money market was easy, stocks improving, and gold down to 140 per cent.

Hon. H. L. HOSMER, Chief Justice of Montana, delivered a lecture Tuesday, at the Travelers' Club, Fifth-avenue, on the condition, resources and prospects of that Territory. The rooms of the club were crowded with visitors, among whom were many ladies and some distinguished strangers.

The Grand Jury of Hudson County have indicted the New-Jersey Central Railroad Company for depositing in Communipaw Cove garbage and refuse matter, the odors from which are deleterious to the public health.

MARY SCHLETTS, residing at No. 102 East Houston-street, was severely burned, on Wednesday evening, by her clothes taking fire, in consequence of the explosion of a kerosene lamp. It is thought that she cannot survive.

A new steamboat called the *Clinton* has been put on the Fulton Ferry line. The dimensions are 161 feet 6 inches in length, 32 feet 6 inches in width, with a tonnage of 538 tons; the cost of the vessel was $75,000.

Dr. HAYES, the Arctic explorer, delivered a very interesting lecture Tuesday, at Cooper Institute on "Icebergs," in which he gave a graphic description of the frozen North.

The post library and school-house connected with Fort Columbus, Governor's Island, was burned down on Sunday evening; $20,000 worth of rare books were destroyed.

United States Commissioner OSBORN has rendered his decision holding ROBERT MARTIN, the alleged rebel hotel-burner, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The ship *Frigate Bird*, Capt. J. N. WEEKS, from Paquica, west coast of Bolivia, arrived at this port yesterday, after a very short passage of eighty-four days.

At the monthly sale of Scranton coal yesterday prices were steady.

The price of gold was a fraction below 140 yesterday, and the exchange on England much depressed. Money easy; government securities steady. The railways opened at Wednesday's advance, but late in to day were sold short at declining figures, on reports of the Funding Bill from Washington.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE MIDDLE STATES.

Gov. CURTIN, having been censured by certain newspapers in Pennsylvania for the too frequent exercise of the pardoning power, a correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Commercial* gives the official figures, which refer to the number of pardons issued to criminals in Allegheny County during the last fifteen years. For the five years of the administration of Gov. CURTIN thirty-nine persons convicted of crimes have received clemency at his hands. The five years immediately preceding his term, forty-five pardons were issued, and for the same number of years previous to the last-mentioned time, sixty-six.

[illegible] is reported as having taken place in the Pennsylvania oil region. A number of wells, with their fixtures, and fifteen or twenty thousand barrels of oil, were consumed.

An extensive fire occurred at Franklin, Penn., yesterday morning, destroying twenty-four buildings in the centre of the town, and involving a loss of valuable property.

The Newark *Advertiser* states that the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company, under the terms of their agreement with the Morris and Essex Railroad Company, have already contracted for the grading of the whole of the branch-road from Denville to Bloomfield. This line will pass through Boonton, Little Falls, and the Great Notch in First Mountain, and will be some twenty-three miles long. A corps of engineers is now engaged between Bloomfield and Paterson in staking out the proposed new road, preparatory to commencing work. The grading on this part of the route is to be finished during the present year, and also that portion between Denville and Boonton. At the same time, the work on the entire line of the road is to be pushed forward with all possible dispatch, and the contractors hope to have the whole completed within twelve months.

NEW-ENGLAND.

At a recent meeting of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, held in Boston, it was announced as the plan of the company to enter upon the immediate construction of seven hundred miles of the road, connecting the waters of Lake Superior with the navigable waters of the Columbia River, the work to be completed in three years.

Dr. WM. READ, the City Physician at Boston, and who lately gave his opinion that cholera is not contagious, has concluded that it is contagious, and has made a long report to the Boston City government, recommending the enactment and enforcement of rigid quarantine laws.

On Monday Mr. EDWARD W. BETTINSON, Superintendent of the Bay State Glass Works, of East Cambridge, Mass., lost his pocket-book containing $9,000 in United States 5-20 and 7-30 bonds.

The jury in the Starkweather murder trial at Hartford, Conn., returned a verdict yesterday morning of guilty of murder in the first degree. STARKWEATHER was indicted for the murder of his mother and sister last August. The trial elicited evidence that he wanted to get possession of his mother's property, and that he also considered her life a bar against his marriage with a Miss CAMPBELL, to whom he was engaged. He is reported to have said, the day after the murder, that he was guilty and expected to go to hell, but he did it on account of Mr. CAMPBELL'S daughter, who, he knew, would not live with his mother.

The remains of nine of the Andersonville prisoners who went from Norwich, Conn., have just been brought back, and their interment, with appropriate public services, will take place to-day. The militia regiments of Norwich and New-London, also the members of the Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteers residing in that vicinity, will take part in the ceremonies.

The funeral services of Rev. Dr. S. W. S. DUTTON took place in New-Haven Jan. 31. President WOOLSEY, of Yale College, Prof. FISHER, Rev. Mr. EUSTIS and Dr. BACON took part in the exercises. The sermon was preached by Dr. BACON.

THE WEST.

The United States Express Company met with a heavy loss on Sunday morning by the burning of their car on the Erie Express train going west, while between Lackawaxen and Shohola. The car was entirely destroyed, with its contents, valued (including a large amount of money) at nearly half a million of dollars. The company will make good all losses to their customers.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received information from the Governor of Dacotah Territory that a large body of the Sioux, numbering from five hundred to eight hundred, are making their way southward, having been driven out of their country by the prevalence of deep snows and the consequent scarcity of game. As their intentions appear to be friendly, instructions have been issued by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to supply them with food.

The Council Grove *Democrat* is informed by Col. LEAVENWORTH, Indian Agent, that he succeeded in recovered two white women, Mrs. MCDANIEL and Mrs. SPRIGGS and six children, who were taken captives by the Indians in Northern Texas last Summer. The Indians have yet three white children, which they promise to deliver up.

A terrible steamboat disaster occurred on the Ohio River Tuesday morning. The boiler of the steamer *Missouri* exploded, near Evansville, Ind., causing the loss of one hundred lives, and by the explosion of the *Miami* on the Arkansas River, one hundred and fifty were killed.

The officers attached to the Mississippi squadron during the war have organized a "Mississippi Squadron Association" at Cincinnati. Two-thirds of the receipts are to be set apart for the benefit of sailors' widows and orphans. Admiral PORTER is honorary President.

MARIE BOYER, a white girl, has been in captivity among the Sioux Indians four years, and is now about sixteen years old. It is understood that she can be ransomed for a certain amount of tobacco and ammunition, and the Minnesota authorities are taking measures to effect her immediate release.

The new United States Telegraph line west of Chicago, on the Pacific route, is in successful operation for a considerable distance. Offices are opened at Clinton, Cedar Rapids and Booneville, Iowa. The office at Omaha will be opened in a few days, when the intermediate stations, some ten or twelve in number, will be opened without delay.

The Minnesota Legislature is about to petition Congress for an emigrant and post route from Redwood Falls, in that State, via Big Stone Lake and Forts Wadsworth, Berthold and Union, to the gold regions of Montana.

Investigations relative to the smuggling on the Canadian border have exhibited the fact that the hostile Indians of Minnesota and Dakota have for a long time past been supplied with rifles of the Enfield pattern by English smugglers.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

Advices from the Northern Pacific coast report unprecedented falls of snow and severe weather. The snow on Scott Mountain is from twelve to fifteen feet deep and no mail over that route has been received for twelve days. The telegraph lines were broken at many points and in Washington Territory it was nearly destroyed.

The San Francisco papers bring the details of a defalcation in the United States Sub-Treasurer's Office in that city, supposed to have been committed by WILLIAM MACY, brother-in-law of the Sub-Treasurer, W. D. CHEESEMAN. The amount of the defalcation is about $30,000, $9,000 in currency and $20,000 in gold.

THE SOUTH.

The Savannah *Republican* says that Capt. JOHNSON, formerly on duty at Gainesville, Fla., as Provost-Marshal, was recently assaulted by the Sheriff, Clerk of the Probate Court, Judge of Probate and others, and so severely beaten that for a time his life was despaired of. Capt. JOHNSON, according to the *Republican*, was not popular with some of the citizens while in command of Gainesville, and the news spreading through the town that he designed purchasing a plantation with a view to settling there, it was almost unanimously resolved to drive him from the district.

The Legislature of Maryland has appropriated $15,000 to complete the works on the Antietam Cemetery. Aid is expected from other States to enable them to gather and properly inter the remains of the 8,000 brave men who now lie scattered over the hills and valleys of that famous battle-field.

Col. BURTON N. HARRISON, formerly private Secretary to ex-President DAVIS, has been released by order of the President, from Fort Delaware, where he has been confined since last Spring. Col. HARRISON'S imprisonment [illegible] upon no special charges other than such as might have been [illegible] by his official and personal attachment to Mr. DAVIS.

The Charleston *Courier* says that $125,000 have been subscribed in that city for the purpose of securing white laborers for South Carolina. A letter [illegible] from a gentleman of influence in Germany, who declares that he can persuade thousands of the people of that country to emigrate.

The works of the Charleston, S. C., Gas Company have been seized by the military authorities as "captured property."

It is said to be true that Mrs. ROBERT LEE is bringing the influence of many leading men of Virginia and the South to bear upon the President in favor of the restoration to her of the princely Arlington estate, and there are some of the opinion that she may be successful.

The Georgia Legislature on Tuesday elected HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON to the United States Senate. On the first ballot, ALEX. H. STEPHENS was chosen by 102 to 39, but as he had positively refused to take the place, (and as he could not take it without being formally pardoned,) other ballots were held, resulting as above stated.

The correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* learns that Gov. PATTON, of Alabama, continues to veto the violent and oppressive laws passed by the Legislature in reference to freedmen. The *Independent*, a daily paper at Huntsville, sustains the Governor. The Alabama Legislature has created a new county, and called it Cleburne, in honor of the rebel General of that name.

AUGUSTUS E. MAXWELL and JAMES M. BAXTER, both Senators in the late Confederate Congress from Florida, have been appointed by the Governor associate Judges of the Supreme Court of that State. CHARLES H. DUPONT has been appointed Chief Justice.

The United States steamer *Narcissus*, from Pensacola for New-York, was wrecked during a late storm at the entrance to Tampa Bay, Fla. All on board, about thirty persons, were lost.

Gen. SCOTT left Key West Jan. 18 for New-Orleans, in the United States steamer *Massachusetts*.

The notorious rebel cutter *Yadkin*, sunk by the United States blockading squadron, thirteen miles below Wilmington, has been raised by the Baltimore and Norfolk Wrecking Company.

THE SOUTHWEST.

In the official correspondence just published between Gens. WEITZEL and MEJIA on the Bagdad affair, the former states that he sent three hundred men to that place purely as an act of humanity, without partiality to either of the contending parties.

At Galveston, Texas, the negro prisoners confined in the county jail lately made an attempt to escape. With the aid of the Forty-eighth Ohio volunteers the prisoners were secured, the ringleader being killed in the affray.

The last intelligence from the steamer *Miami*, destroyed on the Arkansas River, gives the number of lives lost as one hundred and fifty. Fifty bodies have been picked up and buried. Fifty of the wounded are in a hospital at Helena, most of whom are fatally injured.

From New-Orleans intelligence is received that Gen. SHERIDAN has interdicted emigration to Mexico. No interference with the sailing of vessels has been exercised.

It is reported that Gen. FORREST, under the guise of retiring from business in Memphis to his plantation, has gone to Mexico, in consequence of having been notified to appear before a military commission in Washington.

Mr. LILIET, of the New-Orleans *Bee*, and Mr. LAYRANO, of the New-Orleans *Remonstrance*, fought a duel Jan. 18. The combat was with smallswords, and LAYRANO was wounded.

A letter from Gov. MORTON, of Indiana, dated Jan. 3, states that he is somewhat better.

FOREIGN.

The steamship *New-York*, from Southampton Jan. 18, arrived at this port, Wednesday, with four days' later news from Europe. The London *Star* says it has authentic information that the French Emperor is ready to withdraw his troops from Mexico as soon as he can be assured of the safety of MAXIMILIAN from American intervention. The Parliamentary session will commence on the 1st of February. The new Reform bill was laid before the Cabinet on the 10th ult., in the shape of a project. It will not be introduced early in the session. The steamship *London*, for Melbourne, foundered at sea on the 10th ult. Out of 270 persons on board only 20 succeeded in making their escape. The cattle plague continued its ravages in England. Gen. PRIM'S military revolt was making no progress, and it was supposed the insurgents had secured their retreat into Portugal. Spain continued quiet, and the few attempts at local disturbance here and there were put down with ease.

The steamship *Africa*, from Liverpool Jan. 20, via Queenstown Jan. 21, reached Halifax yesterday. It is announced, on the authority of the Paris *Presse*, that Baron SALLARD left Paris on the 16th ult., to arrange with MAXIMILIAN for the speedy return of the French troops from Mexico. The revolt in Spain still drags its slow length along, but is thought to have about run its course. Madrid is tranquil, but rumors of risings in other parts of Spain were in circulation. The cattle disease was on the increase in England. Ten thousand are attacked every week. An active search was going on in Ireland for Head Centre STEPHENS. The Fenian trials in Dublin were in progress. The emigrants for Venetia look with a good deal of suspicion on the amnesty offered by Austria.

By the arrival of the steamer *Atlantic*, news from Panama to the 23d ult. is received. Congress was to open at Bogota on the 1st inst. The government has issued a special order in interpretation of the treaty with the United States, guaranteeing the transit over the Isthmus not only to all citizens of the United States, but to all its troops and prisoners under its jurisdiction. In case of desertion of troops on the route, the authorities say that the officers have no right to send their forces out of the beaten track for their arrest, but must make requisition on the Panama government.

From Chili news to Jan. 2 is received. The report that Admiral PAREJA had committed suicide on the flagship is confirmed. It is said that he was specially chagrined by the capture of one of his vessels in the very midst of the squadron. He is succeeded by Capt. NUNEZ. The blockade is restricted to the ports of Valparaiso and Caldera. Commerce had greatly revived on account of the opening of the four ports. There was a great demand for the grains of the country from Australia and other places.

News is received from the Liberal government of Mexico up to the 6th of January. The President and Cabinet were still at El Paso, and the French had made no further attempts to take the place. Gen. IGNACIA MEJIA had been appointed Secretary of War.

Early on Saturday morning last, says the Ottawa (C. W.) *Citizen* of Jan. 22, we had an extraordinary change in the weather in this vicinity. About 4 o'clock in the morning rain began to fall in torrents, and what is somewhat singular at this season of the year, about 7 o'clock we were visited with quite a thunder-storm. The lightning was blue and vivid, and the thunder heavy.

The large cut-stone church belonging to the Wesleyan denomination in Quebec, and situated on the corner of Ursula and St. Anne streets, Upper Town, caught fire on Friday morning, and was almost entirely destroyed. It was a fine structure, finished with much taste, and cost the congregation $60,000. It was insured, but not to the full value.

There has been quite an excitement caused in Canada by an attempt to transport from Quebec to Montreal two cases containing twelve human bodies, which had been resurrected for surgical purposes. An investigation, the purpose of which is to ferret out those engaged in the undertaking, is now in progress.

Lord MONCK is expected immediately at Ottawa, when, it is believed, the Canadian Parliament will be called together.

It is rumored that Judge COURSOL, (of Canada,) who was suspended in consequence of his action in the St. Albans raid case, is soon to be restored to office.

Lord MONCK is expected to arrive in Canada shortly, when it is reported an early session of Parliament will be called.

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

Increase of Compensation of Clerks—Plea of Enormous Prices—The Albany Railroad [illegible] City—New-York and Oswego Railroad—Provisions of the Health Bill, &c.

ALBANY, Thursday, Feb. 1, 1866.

In Committee of the Whole in the House to-day, a bill was considered to increase the compensation of the various clerks in the State departments of government, appropriating $27,000 for that purpose. The increase is to be for the calendar year commencing Jan. 1, 1866, and is on the following scale: On all salaries under $1,500, an increase of 35 per cent.; all salaries of $1,500 and less than $2,000, an increase of 25 per cent.; all salaries of $2,000, an increase of 15 per cent. The argument in favor of the bill is the increased cost of living in this extortionate town of Albany, and your correspondent, in common with all others who have been so unfortunate as to be compelled to spend any considerable time here, could add testimony that this argument is founded on substantial facts. I don't know how the enormous prices charged here for all the necessaries of life can be justified, but certain I am that if the clerks in the several departments live as gentlemen would desire to do, there can be little of their respective salaries left at the end of the year. The members, with a memory of certain board bills before them, conceded the justice of the bill, and ordered it to a third reading.

The House Committee on Privileges and Elections are now taking testimony in the contested seat of MURPHY vs. CRAWFORD, arising in Albany County. The latter is the sitting member, having been returned by one majority, according to the canvass. The argument in the contested case in Erie County will be closed on Tuesday next. It is said to be a case of great perplexity, and the decision is doubtful.

Akin to the Crosstown Railroad Bill of Mr. FREAR, which ribs over a considerable portion of the City of New-York, is the "Christopher-street Crosstown Bill" introduced by Mr. CREAMER, designed to cover a part of the same route embraced in the other bill, which I have already sent you. The following are the corporators named in Mr. CREAMER'S bill, viz.: E. Harrison Reed, D. E. Proud, John Brooks, George H. Penfield, John M. Sands, T. Jessup Charles, John Fox, E. Folter, R. O. Blossom, George F. Johnson, George N. Lewis and William Hayes, Jr.

In the Senate this morning Mr. FOLGER introduced a bill to extend the time for the collection of taxes in the several towns and cities of this State, which provides that collectors, by renewing their bonds, may have till the first Monday in April next wherein to collect taxes. The Cities of New-York, Brooklyn, Albany, Troy, Buffalo and Rochester are exempted from the provisions of the bill. If passed, it will save a prodigious amount of local legislation.

Mr. LOW, from the Railroad Committee, reported favorably the bill to facilitate the construction of the New-York and Oswego Midland Railroad, and to authorize towns to subscribe to its capital stock. Messrs. WILLIAMS and SUTHERLAND unite in a minority report against the bill. Their objections are that the bill exempts the railroad and the bonds issued to build it from the ordinary burdens of taxation, to which the minority are very strongly opposed at this time, when every species of property should be made to bear its share of the public burdens. Mr. WILLIAMS makes still other objections to the bill, in which Mr. SUTHERLAND does not unite. Mr. WILLIAMS thinks that at least ten per cent. of the stock should be taken by *bona fide* subscription before the towns should be called upon to raise money, and that not more than ten per cent. should be raised in cities, and then only by consent of a majority of tax-payers in such cities.

The Health Bill, as it has been ordered to a third reading in the Senate, retains as Commissioners four distinguished medical gentlemen, against whose character no suspicion was ever entertained. Probably not five men in the State, aside from their own immediate neighbors, can tell the politics of these gentlemen. The fact is, they are not politicians, but men devoted to science, each of whom has given evidence of great ability and force of character. They will bring to the discharge of their duties scientific attainments, thorough knowledge of the laws of hygiene and sanitary reform, and an enthusiastic desire to accomplish all needed work in that direction.

FERDIMMON.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Speech of Mr. Raymond on the Proposed Amendment Changing the Basis of Representation, and the General Question of Restoring Civil Government in the several States Recently in Rebellion.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Jan. 29, 1866.

The Speaker stated the regular order of business to be the consideration of the following joint resolution, reported by the Joint Committee on Reconstruction:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, shall be valid as part of said constitution, namely:

ARTICLE —. Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed: *Provided*, That when the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State on account of race or color, all persons of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation.

The pending question was on the motion of Mr. LE BLOND to refer the joint resolution and pending amendments to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, upon which Mr. RAYMOND was entitled to the floor.

Mr. RAYMOND—Mr. Speaker, this joint resolution now under consideration, as I understand it, comes to us for our action from the joint committee appointed, at the opening of this session, for the purpose of "inquiring into the political condition of the States lately in rebellion, in order to determine whether those States are or are not entitled to representation in Congress." How much of "information" on that subject this resolution embodies the members of this House can judge as well as I can. What precise and particular connection it has with the object for which that committee was appointed is left wholly and entirely to inference.

That committee has reported, without reasons assigned, without explanation of any sort, a naked proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States. Now, Sir, I am afraid that I shall fall under the censure expressed a day or two ago by the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BINGHAM) in regard to those who are unwilling to tamper with the Constitution of the United States as it stands to-day. I acknowledge freely that I do look upon all propositions for its amendment with hesitation and distrust. I think if there is anything established in the history of this country, it is that that constitution is the most wonderful instrument ever framed by the hand of man for the government of a great nation. I think it has proved itself fully adequate to all the emergencies of peace and war, and I think the history of this country during the last four or five years, when the great civil contest for the destruction or preservation of this government was carried on to a triumphant close, by virtue of the provisions or under the explicit permissions of that constitution, affords the highest possible testimony that any of us could ask to the fact of its perfect adaptation to the wants and necessities of the country.

I think, especially, that in its distribution of the powers among the different departments of the government, that constitution has proved its wisdom; and I think this is even still more clearly shown in its distribution of powers between the general government and the several States. That document has proved that it was made not for days or for years, but for all time; and when I foresee the vast extent of country over which this government may at some future time be extended, I cannot but dread any change that shall touch any of its fundamental provisions, or any of the fundamental principles upon which it rests.

Still, Sir, I recognize the justice and propriety of what was said by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BINGHAM) as to the wisdom and necessity of amendments to meet changed circumstances [illegible] to exist in this country, the propriety of so amending the constitution as to make it forever impossible to reestablish slavery within the United States. The specific evil which the amendment reported by the committee is intended to remedy is also probably one which may properly demand attention. By the present constitution, and under the state of things which prevailed but a year or two ago, the States in which slavery existed were entitled to the representation, in common with all the other States of the Union, of the whole number of free persons, together with three-fifths of all other persons. The fact that they had among them four million persons who were not free gave them thus a great advantage in representation over all other sections of the Union. They had a representation for three-fifths of those slaves. Those slaves have now been set free, and, as free persons, the States in which they are found are entitled, under the present provisions of the constitution, to full representation for them. The South has thus gained, as a direct consequence of the rebellion, an additional representation for two-fifths of those four millions. In other words, one million six hundred thousand persons are added to their representative population.

Now, Sir, I acknowledge that to be an inequality which demands attention and a remedy, if a remedy can be found which shall not be worse than the evil itself. This committee has reported this amendment as providing that remedy. I do not suppose that it will be possible to propose any remedy which will not be open to some objections. I think, however, that this amendment is open to some of a very serious nature. One objection (which, however, applies equally to all the propositions that have been suggested) is that it changes the basis of representation from population to something else, and something less. It is, Sir, a fundamental principle of free government that the population, the inhabitants, all who are subjects of law, shall be represented in the enactment of that law and in the election of men by whom the law is to be executed, either directly by their own votes, or through the votes of others so connected with them as to afford a fair presumption that their wishes, their rights, and their interests will be consulted. This proposition departs from that principle, and is thus objectionable as a disturbance of the corner-stone on which our system of republican government—indeed all democratic institutions are supposed to rest.

Another objection is that the amendment, as drawn by the committee, is open to very considerable doubt as to the meaning of the words "race" and "color." Those grounds of doubt were ably and forcibly stated a few days since by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. BROOMALL,) and need not now be repeated. They are entitled, however, to serious and careful consideration.

Another objection is that it deprives of representation the whole of any race in a State if that State should extend to a portion of that race the elective franchise. I do not think, sir, that this is in itself a wise or just provision. It introduces the anomaly of having voters for representatives who may not be themselves entitled to representation. But when I recur to the effect of that provision upon the Southern States, so clearly and forcibly pointed out the other day by the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. SCHENCK,) that it holds out to those States no encouragement to enfranchise any portion of the colored race within their borders unless they make suffrage with that race universal, I cannot help feeling that its effect would be most disastrous upon the relations of this Union to the whole Southern States, and upon the welfare of those States themselves, and of the colored people within their borders.

But, Sir, I do not intend to pursue this inquiry into the merits of the resolution, still less into the merits of the various amendments which have been proposed to its provisions. I cannot, in the present state of this question, regard this as a distinct proposition, standing on its merits alone. I cannot forget that it comes to us from a committee appointed for a specific object, in

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consider a specific subject—to report to us the political condition of the Southern States, with a view to their representation on this floor. From the presumption of the case, I think I have the right to assume that this resolution relates to that general subject and is closely connected with it. I infer, moreover, from the general tone of the debate in this House on that point, that this is the view taken of it all through the House, and when I regard more directly the remarks made by the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. BINGHAM,) himself a member of the committee, as to its meaning and scope, I am not only confirmed in my belief that it does relate to that general subject, but I confess I am startled as to the scope of action that it proposes to embrace, of which this is to be the initial step. The gentleman from Ohio told us the other day, in very impressive and forcible language, that this was only the first of a series of amendments and propositions which that committee would submit for the action of the House. He regarded them all as essential to the safety of the country. He said he trembled when he thought that this whole series of propositions, which he deemed so important to the public welfare, might not be adopted by this Congress and the country at large.

Mr. BINGHAM—My statement was this: I tremble for my country if the proposition now pending be all that this House proposes to send to the people for their approval.

Mr. RAYMOND—Mr. Speaker, I desire to say, in regard to interruptions, that I shall yield cheerfully for the correction of any error into which I may fall in repeating the remarks of any gentleman; I shall cheerfully yield to any correction of an statement of fact; and I will also yield for an explanation of any point I may not make clear. Beyond this I should greatly prefer to follow the line of my remarks without interruption.

I do not understand the gentleman to make any important correction of the sentiment I understood him to express. I will adopt his explanation. He now says he trembles for his country

[illegible]

should control and guide its action, that we of the North and they of the South are at war no longer. The gigantic contest is at an end. The courage and devotion on either side which made it so terrible and so long, no longer owe a divided duty, but have become the common property of the American name, the priceless possession of the American Republic through all time to come. The dead of the contending hosts sleep beneath the soil of a common country, and under the folds of its common flag. Their hostilities are hushed and they are the dead of the nation forevermore. The victor may well exult in the victory he has achieved. Let it be our task, as it will be our highest glory, to make the vanquished, and his posterity to the latest generation, rejoice in their defeat.

THE STATE CAPITOL.

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

More City Railroads all over the Town—The Census—The Health Bill.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1866.

Mr. Fiman, of New-York, has introduced a bill to incorporate the Crosstown Railroad Company, which is an old friend appearing in a new shape. Mr. Fiman's bill names Luther R. Marsh, Henry W. Johnson, Oscar Tibbals, Henry S. Wilson, Butler G. Noble and Rufus Rhodes, with their associates, as corporators. It contains a provision that half a cent shall be paid into the Treasury of the City of New-York on each passenger carried, or eight and a half per cent. on the gross earnings. The road is to run through the following streets, viz.: Commencing at Chambers-street, North River, running through Chambers-street to New Chambers-street, through the latter to James-slip; thence to South-street and returning by the same route. Also commencing at Spring-street, North River, through Spring to the Bowery, across the Bowery to Delancey and Rivington streets, thence through these to East-street, through East-street to Grand-street, returning through and along Grand-street to Tompkins-street, through and along Tompkins-street to connect with the tracks on Delancey and ...

...

ment and Police Salaries.

ALBANY, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1866.

Let decent people in the Metropolitan District, now splashing through filthy streets with olfactories assailed by smells conceivable and inconceivable, proceeding from multiform abominations, give thanks devoutly! The Metropolitan Health Bill, one of the most righteous and needed measures of municipal reform ever brought before a legislative body, has run the gauntlet of the Committee of the Whole in the Senate unscathed. It has endured the ordeal of legislative tinkering—the chronic desire to make amendments displayed by certain Senators—and under the skillful and able management of Senator Andrews, Chairman of the Committee on Municipal Affairs, it has come out unshorn. It has been amended in many particulars, but none of the changes affect the efficiency of the bill as a protection to health and life. Amendments that might weaken it have been most successfully resisted by Senators Andrews and Pierson, to whom the people of the State and particularly those of New-York and Brooklyn, owe a lasting debt of gratitude.

The bill was ordered to a third reading at one o'clock to-day, and will undoubtedly pass the Senate by a decisive vote before the week closes. In the lower House the politicians who are exceedingly anxious to render this great reform a mere party machine will make their last onslaught. But I believe there is good sense enough in the House to prevent these gentlemen from accomplishing their purpose. I might tell you of noted politicians, and even officials, who are lobbying against the scientific and competent gentlemen named as commissioners in the bill, seeking to put in their places mere political partisans; but I forbear. The time may come, however, when I shall feel it a duty, as a new chronicler of passing events, to speak out.

The Assembly was remarkably industrious to-day, and passed an immense number of bills of private or local interest. The quantity of work done thus far, will, I think, exceed that of any previous session up to the same time. The increase of local legislation, demanded by the diversified interest of this great State, is really astonishing, and must divert the next constitutional convention to provide for a longer session than one hundred days. Either this must be done, or more power to legislate on local concerns must be conferred upon Boards of Supervisors and municipal authorities. It is simply impossible, at the present rate of increase in business, for the Legislature to do its work properly in the time during which members are permitted to draw their *per diem*.

Mr. Seebacher's bill relative to Metropolitan Fire Department proposes to amend section 14 of the act of 1865, so as to read as follows:

"The said Commissioners shall have power to select a secretary, chief and assistant engineers, an assistant to the chief engineer, and as many officers, clerks, firemen, foremen and assistant foremen of companies, steamer engineers, drivers, stokers, tillermen and apprentices as may be necessary, and the same shall at all times be under the control of the said Commissioners, and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the said Commissioners, and may be removed by them."

The bill increases the compensation of the several officers, and fix them at the following sums per annum:

Commissioners	$4,000
Chief Engineer	3,000
Assistant to Chief Engineer	2,500
District or Assistant Engineer	1,500
Steamer Engineers	1,100
Foremen	11,00
Assistant Foreman	1,050
Drivers, stokers, tillermen and firemen	1,000

Mr. Seebacher has also given notice of a bill to increase the pay of the Metropolitan Police. I understand that he proposes to introduce a bill to raise the salaries about twenty per cent. on the entire force.

PERSIMMON.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE SEVENTH'S RECEPTION.

Who was There and What was Done—Grant, Stanton & Co. do Not Appear—Five Thousand Jolly People have a Glorious Time—The Decorations, the Dancing, the Supper—The whole affair a Magnificent Success.

The great social event of the season took place Wednesday night, Jan. 31, the lights are out, the last carriage has rolled away, the reception of the Seventh Regiment is over. For weeks and months the ladies of our metropolis have canvassed the probabilities and possibilities of this event. They have consulted their papas, husbands, brothers and lovers; have taxed the ingenuity of modistes and hair-dressers; have bought laces, silks, gloves and flowers; have in fact been in a perpetual fever of anxiety and expectation concerning the reception and its happenings. With the present members of the regiment the reception has likewise been a matter of anxiety mingled with hopeful anticipation. From its ranks had gone hundreds of brave and gallant soldiers, many of whom sleep the last and eternal sleep, many of whom wear the chaplet of fame and the wreath of honor upon their brows, the same chaplet and the same wreath which hang above the tombstones or rest upon the green coldest graves of others—and it was in honor of the living and in blessed remembrance of the dead that this magnificent entertainment was devised, that in all future time the people of New-York might turn to the night of the 31st of January with ...

The Semi-Weekly Times.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1866.

The Times in Europe.

Messrs. L'Herbette, Kane & Co., American Bankers, No. 8 Place de la Bourse, Paris, with whom we have made arrangements for our European business, will receive subscriptions for the New-York Times for any length of time, and will also furnish single copies upon the receipt of the American mail. They are also authorized to receive Advertisements at the regular rates of the paper, and to attend to all matters of business connected with the Times.

To Subscribers.

Subscriptions will stop at the end of the time paid for.

The Basis for a Friendly Settlement with England.

The report on reciprocity which has just emanated from the Treasury Department, and of which we had a very imperfect synopsis by telegraph, is a paper of far broader scope than we had anticipated. Instead of being merely a digest of former treaties, or a summary of the mutual benefits accruing from the Convention of 1854, we find that the report of Mr. McCulloch's agent takes a survey of the whole domain of international policy.

In helping us to a clear estimate of the trade of the adjacent British colonies, Mr. Derby boldly seizes the occasion to suggest that any new commercial compact with the neighboring provinces might well be utilized to bring to a friendly settlement the claims of the United States against Great Britain, for her violation of her obligations as a neutral Power during the war. "If," says Mr. McCulloch's agent, "Great Britain desires to propitiate this country after all that has occurred, would it not be her true policy *to cede to us a portion of her remote territories, valuable to us, but of little value to her?*"

In more specific terms, Mr. Derby suggests the cession to the United States of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island. These colonies, he points out, are settled in great part by Americans, and while they are too remote from England to be of any practical account to her, they would form useful and ultimately profitable adjuncts to our Pacific States. By the surrender of her sovereignty over those portions of her dependencies on the Pacific which lie within the temperate zone, it is assumed that England might find a solution of the question of *Alabama* and other claims, "preferable to a specie payment, or reprisals for the ravages of her cruisers." There is doubtless something in this ingenious conception. If it has a weak side, let us suggest that it lies in the fact that the proposed Atlantic Confederation of Colonies is intended ultimately to include within it both British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, and that to this end a conditional sale of the whole of the Hudson Bay Company's territories to Canada was concluded in England less than a year ago. It may be, however, that the delegates now in Washington are empowered to treat for the surrender suggested by Mr. Derby, and that, as a consideration for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, we are not only to get the entire Island of San Juan, which has caused so much trouble, but two additional colonies and a thousand odd miles of additional coast on the Pacific. The precedent for such a surrender, on commercial grounds, Mr. Derby finds in the advice just tendered by England to Austria, to give up Venice as the best means of reducing the standing armies of Europe, and of promoting international trade.

Were Mr. Derby's report not conceived in the most friendly spirit toward those who seek for a continuance of the treaty, it would be unfair to attach so much importance to his proposal to readjust the balance of power on this continent. But, inasmuch as he puts in a good word for the Provinces and for Provincial commerce as often as he offers one in behalf of his own country, it may be assumed that he has some knowledge of what would prove an acceptable basis of compromise. Indeed, he declares that "*most of the views taken in this report have been confirmed since it was written, by a conference with some of the most able and influential men in the Provinces.*" These influential men, Mr. Derby subsequently indicates, to be none other than Ministers of Canada. His outline of a system of commercial legislation, which shall be common to the United States, moreover indicates that he has confidence in the desire of the Provincial delegates to make a very material surrender of the privilege they have heretofore enjoyed in the making of their own tariffs. Through all the twelve years of this treaty, which terminates on the 17th of March, they have gone on increasing the duties on almost every article we cared to export. This enjoyment, we gather from Mr. Derby's report, they are prepared to see curtailed to a most significant extent. And if they agree, as it would appear this report contemplates, to withdraw their great staple, *lumber*, from the free list in the next convention, and have it taxed $1 per thousand, board measure, we should infer that the Provincial embassy has an unusually large discretion.

The point which will shortly come to be of most immediate interest, as these negotiations progress, will be the attitude and disposition of the British government. We could readily believe that for her own account, England would not stand in the way of any fair bargain for ceding a certain amount of British-American territory to the United States—that is, provided we wanted to *buy*. But as long as Great Britain maintains colonies, pays for their protection, spends her money on them, sends them Governors, and performs generally the functions of an imperial power toward a dependency, we take it she will regard with with some jealousy any attempt on their part to discriminate against her trade, in favor of any other nation. When the Colonial Legislatures set about a revision of their tariffs which shall continue, or peradventure *increase* the duties on the great British staples, such as fine cloth, &c., and which shall, at the same time, lower or perhaps abolish the duties on the leading staples of another country, there is apt, we fear, to arise a clash of interests and conflict of authority. The question, it is true, is one for the colonists and the parent government to settle between themselves; but we may as well take account of the difficulties which still lie in the path of reciprocity, even if this report from the Treasury is accepted by the delegates as it stands.

Fires on Railway Trains.—It seems almost incredible that cars in motion should be destroyed by fire in spite of all efforts to extinguish the flames, but frequent occurrences of the kind attest the fact. The latest instance occurred on the Erie Road on Sunday night, when the car belonging to the United States Express Company was entirely consumed, involving a loss of five hundred thousand dollars. We can only suggest to express and railroad companies that they use iron cars for their more valuable packages or merchandise; but with regard to the newly-established mail cars, we are not going beyond our duty to demand that the government substitute iron for wood at the earliest moment. If the express company are unable to save a dollar out of half a million in such a case, what chance would there be for the mails, in which everybody in general and nobody in particular, are interested.

Report of the Revenue System—Reform of Organization.

The Report of the Special Commission on our Revenue System, is the first formal and official statement by men, evidently of practical and thorough acquaintance with our civil service, of what this journal has so long been attempting with apparent failure—to impress on the people—that is *the radical imperfection* of our civil service while the officials are appointed, promoted and removed solely for their political connections and opinions. We hail the bold and frank statement of the committee, as the first appearance of a new order of things in the Union—as at least the unveiling to the people the miserable inefficiency of our civil service as compared not only with European systems, but with what it might be. Formerly vast frauds and imperfect organization were matters of very little consequence to the mass of the people, because the country was so rich that the loss of a few millions was not felt at all. But now a dishonest or incompetent management of our revenue system, for instance, is felt in the pockets of every citizen; the loss must be made up by additional taxation. It is our immediate interest that we should have as good an organization, and as honest a management and efficient a service, as in England or France, for instance.

The present committee do not hesitate to avow—to the dismay of those who are in the habit of believing America at the head of the civilized world—that we are far behind those two countries in this important matter. Of our present administration of the revenue they speak thus:

"As the case now stands, there can hardly be said to be any general and efficient organization of that department of the revenue which relates to the customs. The system devised in the infancy of the nation has been gradually enlarged and modified to meet the requirements of an increasing and now enormous commerce; but so imperfectly and irregularly has this been done, that the whole system at present seems wanting in method and centralization; and the government, in this department of its business, is obliged, as it were, to do the work of a giant with the toy instruments of a child. The commission believe, furthermore, that there is not, at this time, any individual connected with this branch of the revenue who possesses such an acquaintance with the relations of our customs system to the trade and commerce of the country as is possessed by the supervising officials of the customs departments of either Great Britain or France; and, what is more, there probably never will be any such, *so long as appointment and continuance in office are made dependent on political considerations.*

* * * * * But an imperfection in our whole revenue policy more serious and radical than any yet adverted to, and which affects alike both the customs and the excise, is of making the appointment, retention and promotion of officers of the revenue dependent on other circumstances than qualifications and good behavior. So long as this policy prevails—a policy never adopted by any private firm or corporation having a due regard to their own interests, and one entirely ignored by all the leading States of Europe—a thoroughly efficient and economical administration of the revenue, coupled with the education of a competent corps of officials, cannot reasonably be expected. Under the present system, inspectors of spirits have been appointed who were entirely ignorant of the hydrometer and disregarded its use; and inspectors of tobacco, who require to be instructed as to the nature of the different varieties of this article when manufactured, previous to entering upon the discharge of their duties.

The commission are also informed that efforts for the removal of competent officers have, in some instances, undoubtedly been made, for the sole reason that in the faithful discharge of their duties they have interfered with the private interests of wealthy and influential individuals.

The commission consider it imperative that some action should be taken by Congress on this subject, and that the necessities of the country should override any advantages that now may accrue in the distribution of patronage in the revenue department of the government. Good men, honest, competent and efficient, should be sought out and placed in all the positions requiring tact, skill and judgment, and on such salaries as will enable them to live and continue honest. They should, moreover, hold their situations by such assured tenure as to induce application and faithfulness. Thus would the government have the benefit of experience, every year growing more and more valuable."

The following is their treatment of the New-York Custom-house, which they certainly handle without gloves:

"As regards the New-York Custom-house, the channel through which about two-thirds of the receipts of the whole country pass, want of time has prevented the commission from making extensive personal inquiry; but, judging from the numerous statements presented to them, and from the evidence elicited by the Committee on Public Expenditures, (H. of Rep., 38th Cong., 2d Sess., Report No. 25—1865,) they feel satisfied that the necessity of reform in the manner of doing business in this institution was never more urgent than at present.

Of the officers employed in the New-York Custom-house, it is believed that a majority of them have no special qualifications for their places, and little knowledge of the law under which they discharge their duties; while the estimates presented to the commission of the annual losses experienced by the government, through the frauds perpetrated in connection with this institution, range from $12,000,000 to $25,000,000.

A very large part of these frauds arise from the undervaluation of invoices, coupled with neglect and incompetence in the department of the appraisers. To enter into any detailed account of the manner in which these frauds are perpetrated would, however, require more space than is at the command of the commission in the present report; but as an illustration of the common, systematic, and shameless manner in which it is conducted, they would state that they have had exhibited to them two invoices, received during the past few months from one of the leading and most respectable houses of one of the chief cities of Europe, one of which invoices, sworn to falsely for the payment of duties, was nearly forty per cent. less in amount than the other, which was transmitted for the private account of the importer.

The attention of the commission has, furthermore, been called to a case which has occurred very recently, concerning a foreign publication, imported in sheets into New-York, for which an American house offered to double the price at which the sheets were invoiced, and use them as a raw material for the manufacture of printing paper, although rags and like materials are admitted free of duty. The sheets of the publication in question were invoiced with their covers at three farthings, could be bound for a fraction of a cent each, and are sold in the American market at from eighteen to twenty-five cents.

The effect of such frauds is not to be measured merely by the actual loss of revenue sustained by the government, but also includes the injury inflicted upon the honest importer or the American manufacturer, who is forced to submit to a competition against which no skill or industry will enable him to protect himself. And it is undoubtedly true that in this way no tariff enacted of late years has fully accomplished the end it was intended to subserve.

Another prolific source of fraud in the customs is connected with the present system of refunding duties paid or alleged to be paid in excess. 'The number of such cases pending in the New-York courts averages five hundred and over a year, sometimes running up to one, two, or even three thousand, and involving millions of dollars,' to which must be added, an aggregate of costs of no small dimensions. In some of these cases, it is the conviction of old and experienced Custom-house officials that the government has been made to refund duties three or four times in succession, and that a large part of the business can be characterized as nothing less than shameless and systematic robbery, involving, it would seem, not unfrequently, collusion on the part of government officials.

It ought to be clearly understood by the people of the country that a continuance of this laxity in the management of the customs revenue is equivalent to increased taxation; and that every dollar taken from the revenue under various pretences in this department, must, necessarily, be made up by an equivalent assessment."

"The operations of the Internal Revenue, and also of the customs, affect the character of nearly every industrial and moneyed interest in the country; and all experience has shown that great numbers of designing persons are ever on the alert to take advantage of the imperfections in the law, and of the inexperience of officials, to evade the law and defraud the government.

The only counter-check, therefore, for government to rely upon is the integrity, faithfulness, capacity and experience of its agents; and for the government to endeavor to procure and retain the services of men competent to discharge responsible trusts at less salaries than is paid by leading banks or private mercantile firms or corporations, will not only, probably, be impossible, but will result in very poor economy."

This is certainly sound advice. The time has gone by in this country in which first-class ability can be secured by the government at the salaries formerly paid.

The commission commend many of the features of the British system, especially the following:

"Superannuated and faithful officials are also allowed pensions on retirement from office. To such an extent, moreover, is the British revenue, in all its departments, divorced from party and politics, that all officers and employes of the revenue are even deprived of the right of suffrage while in service, though otherwise qualified; while it is understood that no influence on the part of any member of Parliament, or even of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will avail for the securement of an appointment under the revenue, unless the candidate receive, at the same time, the approval of a majority of the Board of Commissioners, under whose supervision his duties are to be discharged. The consequence of this is, that the administration of the British revenue law is constantly improving, while frauds and defalcations on the part of the officials are rarely, if ever, heard of."

We have no hope in this great reform proposed, for success this year or the next, or perhaps for a generation. But we are grateful for such formal and historical statements of its necessity as this commission have so boldly made, and we doubt not that the truths they propound will yet take root.

Practical Legislation—The Bankruptcy Bill.

A certain amount of optimism is as essential in politics as in the common ethics of everyday life. The evils and annoyances of the present hour are incidental and transitory; the good we hope for, though unseen and undefined, is sure, and will be enduring.

Prolonged debates about reconstruction, and the seemingly interminable manufacture of constitutional amendments, may therefore be submitted to patiently, if not with indifference. After theorizing will come practice. Beyond a fathomless ocean of words lies a solid land of work. The era of discussion ended, we may confidently expect a reign of action, and the adjustment of matters into which partisanship does not properly enter.

The revision of the revenue system cannot be long delayed, now that the report of the special commission has been presented to Congress. The careful consideration and rearrangement of our fiscal burdens is a task to which the statesmanship of either House will not be more than equal. It is a labor to be performed concurrently with the adoption of judicious financial measures, which will be hindered or helped by the manner of its performance.

When this legislation shall have been accomplished, another question closely affecting the interests of trade and the well-being of the country, will challenge attention. Scattered through the commercial world are snags and wrecks which should be cleared away, if we would give to our people fairplay in the arduous career that is before them. Acknowledging the necessity of so arranging internal taxes that labor and capital shall have the freest possible scope, let it not be forgotten that both continue to suffer from the consequences of former financial disasters. There are tens of thousands of honest men whose energies are crippled and whose usefulness is impaired by a legal inability to escape from the results of by-gone misfortune. Whether these embarrassments have proceeded from business inaptitude or a want of fair business strength, or from the crash which shook the land in 1857, and again in 1860, is really of minor importance. The great fact is indisputable. And the only method of averting the embarrassment it produces, and destroying the evil of which it is the cause, is the enactment of a judicious bankruptcy law.

The business community of this country are not generally chargeable with short-sighted selfishness. They discern their true interest with more readiness than most people, and their keenness is usually tinged with an honorable liberality. The majority of them are rarely unwilling to make due allowance for misfortune, or to arrange with their debtors on a basis of mutual sacrifice. To this general feature may in some degree be attributed the elasticity which is associated with the prevalent idea of the American business character. Down to-day, the American is resolved to be up to-morrow. A tumble does not impress him as otherwise than temporary. He sees in misfortune an incentive to renewed exertion; in difficulty, a motive to bolder effort and more ambitious aim. Hence, commercial panics and crises are less terrible to us than to any other people under the sun. We emerge from them with a spirit unimpaired, with hope undimmed, and with a faculty for adapting ourselves to circumstances, which is one of the secrets of our marvelous progress and prosperity.

But the breed of Shylock has multiplied in the land, and now thwarts the liberal purposes of the business majority. An unfortunate trader who proposes honestly to settle with his creditors by giving up all he has, and asks in return exoneration from further liability, too often finds his plan frustrated by the greed and obstinacy of some individual, who resists compromise under an expectation of thereby securing his full claim. There are merchants to whom this course is as a settled rule of trade. They never release a debtor except on his payment of every dollar in full. The willingness of other creditors to accept a part in full settlement of the whole, has no influence upon them. They stand upon the bond and demand the pound of flesh. What the effect may be upon the condition and future of the debtor is of no concern to them. Whether their obduracy operate as a perpetual impediment to his resumption of business, in their judgment, matters not. They will keep the screw upon him continually, although the effect be to ruin him utterly, and render his business salvation virtually impossible.

How this state of things operates, every man knows. There is hardly one among us who cannot place his finger upon cases which illustrate the mischief and cruelty occasioned by the inability of bankrupt traders to escape from a long-borne load of misfortune. On all sides business persons may be seen whose integrity is untarnished, whose qualifications are excellent, and whose willingness to work none can gainsay, but who are nevertheless debarred from the use of their opportunities by the constant pressure of an old indebtedness. What follows? In too many cases an evasion of legal liability most detrimental to commercial morals. Shylock is circumvented, and trickery becomes a part of trade. Business is carried on under false but specious pretexts. They who cannot buy and sell under their own names, do both under the names of others. Property which rightfully belongs to creditors is transferred to relatives. Thus the moral force of business obligations is weakened, the standard of business integrity is impaired, and a blow is inflicted upon the confidence which should subsist between man and man. And for much of this mischief, Shylock is unquestionably responsible.

The insufficiency of State legislation is not less obvious. To the extent that it is operative, it is of course useful; but being limited in its application, and lacking in uniformity, it is not suited to the wants of the time. Only the action of Congress can dispose of an evil which is of national magnitude, and provide means of relief which shall be national in in their operation.

The constitutional right of Congress to legislate on the subject may be taken for granted. The sturdiest stickler for "strict construction" will find it difficult to persuade the country that a power which has already at different times been exercised, and which the Supreme Court has pronounced constitutional, should now be regulated by any other consideration than expediency. And the expediency of a bankruptcy law appears to us as evident as that of a law regulating the national currency, or determining "the obligation of contracts" upon citizens of the several States. Instead of treating it as exceptional, and limited in its duration to a special set of circumstances, we would have it permanent and universal as commerce itself. It can hardly be more necessary at all times to provide for the enforcement of contracts than to provide for the adjustment of the relations of debtor and creditor, irrespective of the peculiar causes of disaster which at this moment render it of urgent importance.

Abuses were wrought under former bankruptcy laws. At one time the debtor enjoyed unfair advantages; at another the creditor. What then? These are reasons, not against a new law, but for so carefully considering its provisions that the mean of equity may be attained.

For anything like a general whitewashing law there can be no excuse. Indeed the most sincere advocates of a bankruptcy bill are they who would most stringently provide for the prevention and punishment of fraud. They desire legislation, not to ratify the title of knaves to plunder, nor to shield knaves from the consequence of their misdoing, but on one hand to assist the honest unfortunate to regain commercial freedom, and on the other to aid the patient creditor in redeeming some portion of his loss.

Fenians in the Forum.

The grand assembling of the warlike tribes of Erin for the forcible expulsion of the Saxon from that sacred isle—a gathering that was to have eclipsed in power and renown the somewhat famous array led by Agamemnon against Troy—is still further postponed; or, rather, a change of tactics has been made, so as to shift the scene of contest from the field to the forum. The obstinate Saxon is to be lectured into surrender: lectured not in Ireland, to be sure, but here in America, where no suggestive clanging of martial steel nor careless dangling of hempen rope may chill the ardor of the thunderous reverberations that are to convince the intrusive Sassenach of his duty to pack up forthwith and scud across St. George's Channel. It seems, at first blush, rather improbable that so great an effect can be produced at such a prodigious distance; but we all know something of the power of oratory, and when a people have used that as their only aggressive weapon for a thousand years, there is no telling what miracles they may accomplish.

The decline from heroic tragedy to the most stupid of burlesques, during the internecine war in this city between the Head Centre and the Senate, has been duly recorded; the ridiculous farce is over, the smoke has cleared away, the parties themselves have become indifferent or weary, and the whole thing is as flat and uninteresting as a wake without whisky. By the new tactics, the grand campaign for the liberation of Ireland is transferred from this city to the rural regions; a dozen imitators of Peter the Hermit are abroad, sounding the bewgag; the American Continent (excepting that portion in the vicinity of the St. Lawrence River) is to be aroused, and in less than no time the Queen's minions, from Cork to Coleraine, and from Dublin to Galway, are to skedaddle, leaving Mr. Chief Executive Stephens at liberty to creep from his hiding-place under the blarney-stone, hoist the sunburst, and proclaim—at last—the Republic of Ireland:

"Great, glorious and *free*,
First flower of the earth and first gem of the sea."

But, thus far, the new tactics have not worked quite up to expectation. There is a Corsican feud—a regular vendetta—between the Head Centre faction and the Senate faction. If a Senatorian undertakes to lecture, a Head-Centreite is on his track like a bloodhound, and before he has time to say "Fellow-citizens," the other side puts in an appearance, and then the fun commences. The enthusiastic hearers at once take sides—Irishmen never hesitate to do that much, no matter what the question—and the lecturer stands as much chance of being heard as a Puritan psalm-singer at Donnybrook Fair. This was the case the other day, at Troy, where the lecturing crusade was inaugurated. The doors were hardly opened before the Milesian blood was at fever heat, and in default of a regiment or two of Life Guards to wallop, the boys went at each other. They did not hear the lecture, but they did enjoy the coveted luxury of a regular hullaballo, such as would have done honor to Tipperary in its best days.

This ridiculous spectacle will doubtless be witnessed in most of our large towns, the squabbles of the O'Mahonians and the Senate sort being (thank fortune!) transferred from this city to a broader, and possibly a richer field. In the meantime, the ice is two feet thick on the St. Lawrence, and Canada is waiting, with all the patience of the old lady at Ismail, for somebody to come and capture her.

The War for the Union and the War Against It.

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens and his radical friends are not unlikely to overshoot their mark. Their fiery zeal will in due time defeat itself, and bring upon their own heads the punishment with which they threaten others. For all this agitation in Congress, this piling up of amendments to the constitution, this denunciation of every man who differs from them, this anxiety to disable and punish our fellow-citizens in the Southern States, is in strange forgetfulness of considerations which the statesman who would live must ever keep in view. It presupposes the continuance during peace of a public opinion which acquired force under the excitement and perils of war. It makes no allowance for the abatement of feelings which derived their strength from a conflict involving the life of the nation, and which are naturally modified, if not eradicated, now that danger has given place to triumph. And it ignores the fact that many of the measures urged by radicalism, and which the radical leaders would fain push to completion between the rising and the setting of the sun, cannot acquire any guarantee of permanence, and may be annulled without ceremony by another Congress. Even with regard to constitutional amendments, it takes for granted the concurrence of the requisite number of States, although the known weakness of the radical element in several of them renders such a result extremely improbable. There is folly, therefore, as well as mischief in some of the scenes now being enacted at Washington.

The idea of subjugating the Southern States and reducing them to the condition of conquered provinces, obtained no favor during the period most likely to foster it. True, the Wendell Phillipses on the platform enacted the same *rôle* of characters now played by the Stevenses of another place, but the great body of the people repudiated it unqualifiedly and always. The Copperheads, taking their cue from the Phillips school of radicals, opposed the war under the allegation that it was a war of conquest. But the people, from whom men and means to carry on the war were derived, never regarded it as other than a struggle to preserve the national integrity. All their plans, all their aims, were predicated upon the continued existence of the Union in its entirety, and consequently upon the continuance within the Union of the rebel States, throughout the whole term of the rebellion. The entire policy of the government, foreign and domestic, proceeded on this hypothesis. The proclamations of President Lincoln, the correspondence of the State Department, the legislation of Congress, the efforts and aspirations of the Northern people—all were in harmony upon this point. It was this and this alone which justified the war. It was this and only this which sustained the North under reverse, animated it when things wore their gloomiest aspect, and gave unceasing vigor to the spirit which led to victory. The States were held to be States all the time. And the close of the war was held to imply the resumption of former relations as between the federal government and the several States which had been concerned in the rebellion.

This popular appreciation of the question is of more value, for most practical purposes, than the abstract arguments of publicists on either side. As the subtleties of the secession problem have been blown into nothingness from the cannon's mouth, so the theorizing of Messrs. Stevens and Shellabarger is blotted out as of no account by the deliberate judgment of the people. We have the testimony of Gen. Grant to the good faith with which the citizens of the South acquiesce in the verdict of the war, and resume their allegiance to the old flag. The terms dictated by Gen. Grant, with the full knowledge of President Lincoln, were calculated to bring about this happy condition of affairs. The great soldier who guided the struggle to its end dreamed not of arrogating to himself the functions of conqueror, or of imposing upon the South terms of vassalage. They who did the fighting felt always that they were fighting, not to extend a conqueror's flag over alien territory, not to add provinces to a republic and make its glorious symbol "a flaunting lie," but to put down rebels and restore the authority of the Union over all its component parts. The armies of the Union fought only for *that*. And when *that* was accomplished, soldiers and people alike felt that the work of the war was ended, and that nothing remained to keep Northern and Southern States apart. The Union was restored, and with the restored Union came back the equality of the States and the full title of each to the privileges conferred by the constitution.

The Northern people have gone yet further. From the moment when the rebellion was known to be suppressed, they have striven to heal the wounds occasioned by the war, and to reassure the South in every respect. They have established lines of steam communication almost without number. They have provided the means of reconstructing railroads. They have furnished capital to cultivate plantations and to promote industrial and commercial enterprises in every Southern State. They have settled liberally with Southern debtors, and have sent on credit goods to supply the Southern market. In this manner the question of the Union and the relations of Northern States to Southern States have been virtually and satisfactorily settled by the peoples of the two sections. Southern people come hither and find friends and fellow-citizens, instead of aliens and subjugators. Northern people go there and find, in the varied resources of States now freed from the curse of slavery, fresh grounds of confidence in the power and prosperity of the Union.

It remains for men like Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, to declare the work of the Grants and Shermans of the army unfinished, and to condemn the magnanimous spirit of the American people. To a man who had dared anything or done anything befitting a hero, we might be disposed to listen with respect. But that men who never shouldered a musket, nor exposed their precious persons to danger, should now scold and hector, and talk about terms which a conqueror may dictate, is simply intolerable. And when Mr. Stevens, who during the war attempted nothing more formidable than the drafting of absurd gold bills, spits his venom upon the President, and impugns the sagacity and patriotism of Andrew Johnson, the people will not be long in deciding to whom their confidence should be given. On one hand, they see the type of a class of whose radicalism years ago afforded Southern fire-eaters the means of fomenting sectional strife, and whose zeal to-day smacks more of Austrian absolutism than of rational republicanism. On the other hand, they have a Southern loyalist who risked life and everything in the cause of the Union, who did more than any other single man to organize loyal sentiment in the border States, and whose policy since his elevation to power has been marked by consummate skill and judgment, and by a disinterested devotion to the restoration of national peace and unity, which entitles him to the coöperation of the country. It is against this patriot, tried and true—against this statesman, endowed so eminently with qualities peculiarly suited to the crisis—that Mr. Stevens presumptuously and insolently proposes to array the great Union party.

What good can possibly be effected by these repeated displays of the radical temper, and these renewed developments of the radical tactics? Is it imagined that by bullying and threatening, and insulting, Mr. Stevens can drive President Johnson from his position? Is it supposed that a party may be everlastingly frightened by the crack of an overseer's whip, or perpetually misled by cries devoid of reason, and appeals which, though full of sound and fury, signify nothing? If these be the expectations, we tell those who cherish them that they are doomed to disappointment. Andrew Johnson stood firm in the Senate with traitors around him; firm in Tennessee, when firmness for the Union exposed him to trouble and death, and we are confident that he will not shrink now, with the public opinion of the nation overwhelmingly in his favor.

As to the Union party, we are not less sure that its usefulness to the country, and the prolongation of its power as a party, depend upon the restraints which it shall impose upon the schemes of the radical section. Its worst enemies are of its own household. If these assaults upon the constitution and the Executive are to be continued, the Union will be in greater danger from the doings of professed friends than from the machinations of its most malignant enemies.

The time calls for forbearance, moderation, magnanimity. The country stands more in need of practical legislation than of "the previous question" and the prescriptions of legislative quacks. Shall it be said that the Union party is unequal to the exigencies of the situation?

The Medical Staff of the Army.

To provide a military peace establishment of the country, which shall reconcile adequate protection for the present and provision for the future, with the minimum of economical expenditure, and which shall, at the same time, in respect to new offices created, do justice both to regulars and volunteers, is a most difficult task. The amended bill, reported to the Senate by Senator Wilson, provides for a *minimum* army strength of about fifty-seven thousand men, and the maximum force of the regular army, at present organized, is about forty-three thousand rank and file. This increase is not unreasonable.

The stress of difficulty grows out of attempting to discriminate, in respect to commissions for the additional force, between regulars and volunteers. And in one or two instances the proposed bill of Mr. Wilson is at fault in this particular.

For example, the number of surgeons in the regular army is limited to fifty, and no assistant surgeon can be a surgeon till he has served five years, and not then unless there be a vacancy in the corps of surgeons. In consequence of this law there are many medical officers who entered the army anterior to the rebellion, and who have served through the war with distinction, who are still assistant surgeons.

The bill of Senator Wilson excludes these officers from competing for the twenty-five vacancies created thereby in the corps of surgeons, by providing that assistant surgeons of *volunteers*, and *none but them*, shall be eligible to the new appointments.

That this exclusion is bad in principle, and will be unjust in application, is apparent on its face. In the first place, it prevents the government from getting the best men in the army medical service, by limiting the field of selection to one class, instead of embracing regulars and volunteers alike. In the second place, it inspires and promotes unnecessary jealousy between the two arms of the service, and it also works positive wrong to deserving men in the regular service.

The true plan is to throw these twenty-five new appointments open to competition, by rigid test of merit before an examining board, where early education, professional training, military service, habit and temper of mind and body, and, what is of great importance, temperance and virtue of life, can be unfolded for consideration. Open the doors for regulars and volunteers alike, and let him who passes the ordeal best be first commissioned, and so on to the end of the list. At any rate, do not debar the regulars from the poor privilege of submitting to an examination. The preparation of study for the ordeal will of itself be a great advantage to the public service.

The New Announcement from France.—Statements come to us from France more positive and definite than ever that the Emperor is making preparations to withdraw his troops from Mexico. By the *Africa*, whose telegraphic news we give this morning, we have it stated on the authority of the Paris *Presse*, that Baron Saillard left Paris on the 15th ultimo to make the necessary arrangements for the withdrawal from Mexico of the French contingent as speedily as possible. The *Presse* is not an official organ, but is liberal in its sympathies; but nevertheless it is not infrequently used by the authorities to give utterance to the purposes of the government on certain matters. None of the statements of a kindred character that have been so often put forth in Paris within the last few months have been contradicted by the official mouthpiece; and this circumstance adds to their intrinsic likelihood. We can only renew the hope we have so often expressed before, that the announcement may prove true. We are especially anxious to avoid difficulties with France on the Mexican question; and yet they must come in time, as Mr. Seward has repeatedly told the French government, if the Emperor persist in the policy he initiated four years ago. The act of withdrawal would dispel the last cloud which now threatens our peaceful relations, and would at the same time strengthen the position of the French government at home.

Wrecks at Sea.—We have an account from Europe of the wreck of the steamship *London* in the Bay of Biscay and the loss of 270 lives. The vessel had been for some time in a furious gale and had suffered severe damage, but the fatal incident was when the engine-room hatch was carried away and the water rushed into the engine-room, put out the fires and stopped the engines. On the same day we learn by the European papers of two other great steamships being lost from the same cause.

We should think it would be quite feasible to adopt some system better than the present of protecting the engines from the sea-water in cases of storm. The hatches constructed after the present fashion are utterly inefficient, as has been proved in a hundred instances. We are not prepared to give our views as to the best thing to be adopted, but practical ship-builders and engineers could unquestionably throw out ideas and put them into shape.

Clean Streets.—We observed a very old and very lean graybeard engaged in sweeping one of the crossings of Broadway a day or two ago, and around his hat he had a handbill, with some such legend as this printed upon it: "The Independent Street-sweeping Company." The old chap plied his broom vigorously, and did his work well. As passers by came along, he extended his palm for the nickels, and by what we saw in a few seconds, we judge he made a very good thing out of his labors. We suppose he was the solitary member of the company whose name he bore aloft, but if there had been one such worker for every block in Broadway during the last week, that great thoroughfare would not have been in such a disgraceful condition of filth and slush. Every man of them, too, would have made money; for, besides the nickels got from pedestrians, the shopkeepers on the various blocks would have offered them contributions and largesses.

The difference between the old man we have spoken of and the authorized Street-cleaning Company, lay in the fact that he actually did his work, and they actual fail to do theirs. We, the citizens, pay both companies, but the independent one-horse company could show something for it, while the legitimate company can show nothing. [illegible] there is no use in continuing to remunerate a company for work not performed, it would be better to abolish Brown, Devoe & Knapp altogether, and spend the money we now give them in paying such independent street sweepers as may be found who do their work well.

Slavery in Cuba and Brazil.—If our emancipated negroes throughout the South prove by their conduct during the coming Summer that they can carry on the operations of industry faithfully and [illegible] as freemen, the fact will exercise an immense influence upon slavery in Cuba and Brazil. The barbaric institution has a very feeble hold of life in Cuba. In the mother country there is an agitation for its abolition, and many of the foremost men of the island, and not a few of the planters, are in favor of free labor. The proslavery leaders there, however, use the same arguments against emancipation formerly so powerful in this country—that the negroes would not work—that all labor would be disorganized—that the plantation would go to ruin, and that Cuba would descend from its position as a rich and productive island to that of a decayed and bankrupt country. The same arguments are used in Brazil; and indeed they have served their purpose in defence of slavery and serfdom throughout the different countries of the world for thousands of years. They continually need new and practical refutation; and this country, we trust, will furnish their latest refutation. We may be sure that slavery will not [illegible] in Cuba two years, nor in Brazil five, after our late Southern slaves shall have shown that negro industry is not incompatible with negro freedom.

A Sign of Activity at the South.—It is difficult to look over the advertising pages of the innumerable newspapers that have sprung up all over the South, and believe one-tenth of the stories of destitution and privation suffered there. The very fact that such towns as Richmond, Nashville, Savannah, New-Orleans, &c., can support *each* about as many daily journals as New-York, is one which it is difficult to reconcile with the reports of industrial stagnation. And when we look at the contents even of what might be called country journals, we find evidences of commercial enterprise and activity perfectly wonderful. Here we have the Montgomery *Daily Mail*, a large open sheet of thirty-two columns, of which twenty-four columns are devoted to advertisements of every conceivable commodity, from fancy goods to plantation wagons. The paper on which the Montgomery *Mail* is printed is much better than the ordinary in use here, and the proprietors have no compunction in charging ten cents a copy for the daily issue. There may be a secret about newspaper manufacture at the South of which we are entirely ignorant. But if a [illegible] the size of Montgomery, in this State, supported *one* such journal as the *Mail*, it would be regarded as being in a very prosperous way.

The American Bureau of Mines—The Organization Complete.

Reference was made in our columns [illegible] weeks ago to the progress of an organization under the name of the American [illegible] Mines. The organization is now complete, and as the object is one of a public character its purposes and aims ought to be as extensively known as possible. The bureau has been organized as a joint stock company, and its object, summarily stated, is to assist in placing the mining enterprise of the country on a sure and conservative basis. More [illegible] stated, the aims of the bureau are [illegible] protect the public against swindling schemes by furnishing disinterested and authoritative information as to the value of mineral properties; to enable mining companies to obtain for responsible positions men whose qualifications have been rigidly examined; to assist chemists, metallurgists, engineers and others, with necessary scientific information and practical advice; to aid the proprietors of valuable lands or mines in the development of the same, by getting them into communication with [illegible], and by lending to their plans the [illegible] of the bureau; to place at the disposal of [illegible] corporations the services of a distinguished Board of Experts as consulting engineers in all matters connected with mining and [illegible]. In order to effect most successfully these important objects, the bureau has engaged [illegible] of the most eminent engineers and professors of chemistry, metallurgy and mechanics [illegible] United States. Among these experts we [illegible] as Dr. Barnard, President of Columbia College; Dr. John Torrey, Assayer of the United States Assay Office; Dr. Justus Adelberg, [illegible] F. L. Vinton, C. B. Buck, R. W. Raymond, &c. The organization of the bureau, we [illegible], is due in very great part to the [illegible] and exertions of John Ponder, Esq. [illegible] high social standing of the directors and [illegible] of the company gives the public the [illegible] possible assurance that the organization [illegible] vigorously and faithfully devoted to the [illegible] it has set before itself. The Directors [illegible]

Geo. D. H. Gillespie, President; [illegible] Vice-President; F. C. Calhoun, Treasurer; [illegible] Drake [illegible] Esq., Secretary.

The Trustees are:

Geo. D. H. Gillespie, F. Tomes, Jr., [illegible] Calhoun, President of the Fourth National Bank; [illegible] Gustus Davis, J. F. Schepeler, of [illegible] & Co., Wm. F. Drake, of Drake Brothers; [illegible] Holbrook, of Troost, Schmidt & Co.; [illegible] Kelly, of Eugene Kelly & Co.; F. Schuchardt, of [illegible] Schuchardt & Son, formerly Schuchardt [illegible]; [illegible] Caylus, of E. Caylus, de Ruyter & Co.; [illegible] Jr., C. F. Downing, of United States [illegible]; Theo. Gould, of Gould & Phipps.

New-York Semi-Weekly Times, Friday, February 2, 1866.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Proceedings of the New Financial Bill—The Proposition to Establish Full-Value Greenbacks Defeated—Bill in Reference to the Highjacking of Vessels—The Question of the Title of Jefferson Davis Favorably Received—The Report of the Revenue Commission—Proceedings in the Case of Lieutenant General Scott—The Contested Seat Cases from Utah—Speech by Argard—Important Case in the United States Supreme Court—Question of the Legal Tender Clause of the Act of 1862.

THE FINANCIAL BILL.

The bill introduced by Committee Messrs. Sitts to commutate the Taxes and Bounties, the precise substitute.

First—That the act entitled "An act to provide ways and means for the support of the Government, approved March 3, 1865, could be extended and modified so as to commutate the taxes and bounties, on the following terms, viz: Commencing January 1st, 1866, all obligations issued under any act of Congress, whether bearing interest or not, and to which the taxes and bounties of Internal authorized by the act to which this is an amendment, and also to dispose of any portion of bonds authorized by said act, either in the United States or elsewhere, at the option of the Secretary of the Treasury, and to the extent of the amount of said bonds so disposed of, the taxes and bounties, or commutation of taxes and bounties, shall be paid in United States Treasury notes, or in gold coin, or in gold certificates, at the option of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue and dispose of the bonds, or certificates of indebtedness, or commutation of taxes and bounties, at such rates and on such terms as he may deem most advantageous to the public, and to Congress—the proceeds thereof to be used only for the purpose of paying the principal and interest under any act of Congress. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or permit the public debt, provided that the bonds which may be issued in pursuance of this act, shall not be made payable, both principal and interest, in gold coin, or in gold certificates, or in any other equivalent payable, but shall be payable in lawful money, excepting for gun-powder purposes, and provided, that the bonds issued under this act shall be made payable at the option of the Government, at any time after five years, and payable not sooner than five years from date, and provided, that the bonds issued under this act shall be exempt from taxation, and provided, that the bonds issued under this act shall be of Denomination

AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC.

Drainage.

Of all the needs of the agricultural world, says the *Genesee Farmer*, drainage is the greatest. Manure has been called the steam-engine of the farmer. But there is much rich soil in the world which needs no manure for a long time. There is little soil that does not need draining. The farmer can readily tell such soil by the water that remains long on the surface, that keeps the soil long wet without showing on the surface; that bakes after plowing; usually heavy, clayey soil. Where there is much clay water is apt to trouble, especially where there is clay sub-soil, or where there are springs or water oozing from the ground.

Little benefit is such land to the farmer. Grain is a loss to him if he attempts to raise it. Grass will grow, but it is not the healthy, sweet grass of the dry land, and will not so readily be eaten. Wet soil is sour; but it is also rich, richer than the dry ground surrounding it, so that when it is drained it will yield all the more for having been wet.

The people of this and the adjoining States are, many of them, prepared for drainage—or at least for beginning the work. They are sufficiently able, many of them, and there is no excuse to neglect the thing longer. Begin at once. Try it on a small scale at first, if you lack confidence. The country—the whole country—has to come to this by and by. Why? Because it is an advantage; not an advantage merely; it is an immense benefit, adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the country at large, if secured. Why shall we neglect the advantage that is certainly within our reach? We are culpable; guilty of a wrong to ourselves; to the interest that reaches our pockets and the welfare of our families. We leave this mine unworked! Self-interest is the first, the great principle of our nature. Here is something to stir it up, if we only knew it, knew the real benefit of draining our land.

Cut Feed—Chaffed Hay, Straw, etc.

In these times of high prices, says the *Agri-*[illegible]

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

GENERAL NEWS.

Passage of the Constitutional Amendment by the House—Mr. Stevens Demands the Previous Question and Presses the matter to a Vote—He Closes the Debate with a Bitter and Characteristic Speech—Tirade of Denunciation Against Northern Magnanimity.—The Amendment finally Passed by a Vote of 120 Yeas to 46 Nays—Gens. Grant, Sherman, Thomas and Meade, in Consultation over the Army Bill.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 31.

PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT.

The Joint Committee on Reconstruction fulfilled my prophecy of last night in regard to their probable action of the recommittal of the constitutional amendment with more promptness than was generally expected. Before the morning hour had expired Mr. STEVENS reported the amendment again, modified by striking out the words "direct taxes," thus confining the operation of the amendment to representation alone. Mr. STEVENS at once demanded the previous question, but yielded a moment to allow Mr. SCHENCK to offer his substitute, which makes suffrage the basis of representation. Mr. STEVENS then renewed his demand for the previous question, and the excitement in the House began to rise. The galleries caught the meaning of the scene, and immediately began to fill up, and an intense interest was manifested everywhere. Mr. WRIGHT, of New-Jersey, appealed to Mr. STEVENS to have the amendment temporarily laid on the table and printed, but Mr. STEVENS said no; it had been debated more than a week and must now come to a vote. He therefore pressed his demand for the previous question, which was seconded, yeas 73; nays 49. Mr. STEVENS then had an hour, as chairman of the committee, in which to close the debate, and he pencilled out his time to his own taste. He gave Mr. SCHENCK five minutes in which to urge the House to come to a square vote on his substitute. Another five minutes to Mr. BENJAMIN, of Missouri, who explained that as Missouri had disfranchised rebels, a suffrage basis of representation would cut her down from nine members to five.

The scene now became invested with much dramatic interest. Knots of members in earnest conversation were scattered over the hall; the galleries bent forward to catch every word; the matter was coming to a point blank issue, and members were preparing to meet it. When Mr. BENJAMIN's five minutes had expired, Mr. STEVENS rose to make the final speech in favor of the amendment. He had the whole subject at his mercy, for as Chairman of the committee he could use up his whole time, and there would, under the previous question, be no opportunity for reply; and therefore, no one was surprised to hear Mr. STEVENS make a bitter, vindictive, unrelenting speech—a speech full of the same passion and hatred that has swayed his judgment all through the war; a speech in which there was no argument in favor of his proposition, which was no reply to any of the objections urged against it; a speech which was a tirade of denunciation of all those who exhibit the least magnanimity toward the South, and which was full of contemptuous and sarcastic allusions towards the President. No one knows better the use of wrathful expletives, and Mr. STEVENS used them. He denounced as infamous blasphemy the sentiments uttered by Mr. RAYMOND, where the latter speaks of the courage and devotion shown on both sides during the war as now the common glory and admiration of the country, and for this utterance he invoked the ghostly spirits of the fallen to rise from their graves and haunt the gentleman until they seared his eyeballs.

Such was Mr. STEVENS' reply to arguments: The President a "pundit," and magnanimous sentiments, "infamous blasphemy." Such were the sentiments which drew from one of the most prominent, brave and patriotic general officers of the war this comment: "Such utterances have no longer the merit of being bold and fearless. The private soldier who has fought and died unheralded, puts such rhetoric to shame. None but cowards taunt fallen foes; and God pity the future of our country if such passions are to rule in its legislative halls."

When Mr. STEVENS concluded, there was a general demand for the question, and Mr. SCHENCK's substitute was voted down by a large majority, less than 30 votes being cast in its favor. The main question was then put, and the amendment was passed, [illegible]

the Supreme Court. They arise on writs of error to the Court of Appeals of New-York by the Second National Bank of Utica and two Albany banks. Mr. EVARTS, of New-York, Mr. REYNOLDS and Mr. TREMAIN, of Albany, and Mr. SEDGWICK, of Syracuse appear for the banks, and Mr. PARKER, of Albany, and Mr. KERNAN, of Utica, defend the right of the State to impose the tax. The argument against the tax was opened by Mr. REYNOLDS. The question involved is a very important one, and the case excites much interest among the persons interested in national banks. They are test cases, brought up under the direction of the Executive Committee on National Banks.

THE NEW-YORK TAX CASES.

The argument in No. 288 Supreme Court—the New-York tax cases—was commenced this afternoon.

ORDER BY GEN. GRANT.

The following order, forming a permanent Artillery Board, has just been issued by Gen. GRANT:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1866.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 6.—A permanent Artillery Board is hereby organized, to which questions pertaining to the artillery arm of the service may be referred by the Secretary of War or the General-in-Chief for discussion and recommendation. The board shall also have the power to make original recommendations to the General-in-Chief in reference to the interests and efficiency of the artillery arm. The members shall sit on the board according to their rank in the artillery, and the senior member shall be President. He shall have the power to call meetings at such times and places as shall be approved by the General-in-Chief, in addition to those called by the Secretary of War or General-in-Chief. A complete record of all proceedings of the board will be kept by the Secretary, who, on being relieved, shall turn it over to his successor, or to the Adjutant-General of the army. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary rooms and stationery on requisition of the President of the board. Detail for the board: Brevet Brig.-Gen. H. J. HUNT, Lieutenant-Colonel Third Artillery; Brevet Col. ALBION P. HOWE, Major Fourth Artillery; Brevet Lieut.-Col. S. N. BENJAMIN, Captain Second Artillery, Secretary.

By command of Lieut.-Gen. GRANT.
E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant-General.

IMPORTANT QUESTION DISPOSED OF.

One of the most important of the great questions pending in Congress was disposed of yesterday, so far as the House is concerned, by the adoption of the resolution of the Committee on Claims respecting all claims by citizens of the States lately in rebellion growing out of the destruction, or appropriation of, or damage to property by the army or navy while engaged in suppressing rebellion.

Mr. DELANO, Chairman of the committee, explained [illegible]

sending the *Shenandoah* (rebel privateer) to this country proved abortive, and that she was compelled to put back to Liverpool. He apprehends that Consul DUDLEY's application to Admiral GOLDSBOROUGH for officers and crew to take charge of her in another trial to cross the Atlantic will not succeed, as it is questionable whether he can spare them. He says that the voyage of that vessel hither at this season must be hazardous, and judging from the reports of [illegible]

THE NEW-JERSEY SENATOR.

The Judiciary Committee [illegible] report sustaining the [illegible] STOCKTON's election as Se[nator] [illegible]

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Tuesday's Proceedings.

SENATE.

A NATIONAL MILITIA.

Mr. WILSON introduced [illegible]

year ago say that the best race of men he ever saw was a mixture of negroes and Indians in Kansas.

Mr. LANE said this mixed race lived south of Kansas. He still adhered to the assertion quoted by Mr. HENDERSON.

Mr. COWAN denied that it was the intention of the framers of this government to provide for the naturalization of Asiatics. Speaking of the merits of the bill Mr. COWAN said the second section of the Constitutional Amendment gave no authority to pass such a measure. The amendment was intended simply to strike the shackles from the slave. The second [illegible]

[illegible]

the farmer, and if MAXIMILIAN remain in Mexico, it will be as the citizen of a republic, and an adherent of the Monroe doctrine.

Other gentlemen made speeches on the questions of the day, and the House adjourned.

TEXAS.

Attempt of Negro Prisoners to Escape—A Desperate Fight—One Negro Killed.

The Galveston *Bulletin* of the 19th inst. gives an account of a desperate attempt of negro prisoners in the county jail to escape.

The sheriff attempted to put some of them in irons, when they attacked him with brick-bats.

A guard of the Forty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry was then called upon to put the negroes down, and the latter attacked them violently with bricks and other missiles.

The ringleader of the negroes seized a sergeant's gun and attempted to knock his brains out with a stone, when the sergeant shot him dead. Two other negroes were wounded.

After a severe struggle all the prisoners were secured, and order was once more restored.

The Decree Against Juarez—Elections in Texas—Success of the Supporters of President Johnson.

NEW-ORLEANS, Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Galveston (Texas) dates of the 27th inst. have been received.

Gen. ORTEGA, at San Antonio, publishes a protest, as President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Mexico, against the decrees of JAUREZ.

The *Civilian* says that all the delegates elected to the convention, as far as heard from, warmly support President JOHNSON's policy.

The election of Judge HANCOCK at Austin over ex-Gov. PEASE is considered as sustaining the President, and opposing Gov. HAMILTON, who is thought to be more in accord with the Radicals than with the President.

Cotton closed at Galveston on the 26th for the week firm; small stock offering of Middling at 32c. in specie, exclusive of the revenue tax. Gold declined in the week to 141. Exchange on New-York, abundant supply at ½@1 discount. Freights on cotton to New-York and Boston, 1c.; Liverpool, ⅝d.@¾d. Groceries have declined from 5 to 8 per cent.

Dry goods are selling at 15 per cent. below New-York prices, and boots and shoes are selling at less than first cost.

OUR REVENUE SYSTEM.

Important Report of the Special Commission—Thorough Exposition of the Laws and their Defects—The Revenue Laws of Great Britain and France—Results thus far in the United States—Various Amendments Recommended—How to Equalize and Lighten the ...

[illegible]

COTTON.

... of the commission has been specially ... cotton product of the United States as a ... revenue, and they would refer to their special ... 3,) and also to the testimony accompanying ..., as embodying all the information ... the formation of a correct opinion on ... As a result of their investigations, the ... recommend that a tax of five cents per ... on and after July 1, 1866, upon all ... product of the United States, and that the ...

... unreasonable amount are often deducted ... gain to the revenue in the City of New-York ... from the repeal of that part of the act authorizing ... deduction of rental, would, in the opinion of ... officials, amount to over two million of dollars per annum.

In view of the necessity for the removal of other forms of taxes which tend to check the development of the industry of the country, the commission would recommend no further change, for the present, in respect to the income tax.

[illegible]

... submitted, and others will be presented at the earliest practicable moment.

Among the separate reports which will be submitted is one, by an individual member of the commission, in relation to national securities—a topic which has already excited some discussion, and is likely to produce more. It is thought by a majority of the commission that this report, and the bill accompanying it, should be referred, with your consent, to Congress, not only on account of the importance of its suggestions and the arguments by which they are sustained, but as a preventive of crude projects and plans which may be presented to Congress by those who have not devoted so much time to the consideration of the subject. If the policy of a sinking fund shall be adopted by Congress, that suggested in the report alluded to is worthy of consideration.

The commission also desire to say that, in respect to some of the points discussed in their reports, there is a difference of opinion existing among its members, but that each recommendation of the commission offered is sustained by a majority of the commission, and that as regards the report, as a whole, it has their unanimous concurrence.

The commission would also again allude to the very great difficulty which they have experienced in their investigations in obtaining exact statistical information. The returns furnished by the Treasury Department do not, in any degree, correspond with those furnished to the commission by the trade or published in the various commercial circulars; and these latter, furthermore, do not always agree with each other. They cannot, therefore, claim that the statistics of production and consumption given by them in their general and special reports are absolutely correct. They are, however, believed to be approximately so, and are the best results derivable from the data placed at their disposal.

The commission, furthermore, in closing their report, would take occasion to express their sense of obligation to the Secretary of the Treasury, and to all officers connected with his department—especially the late and present Commissioners of Internal Revenue—for the prompt and effective assistance which has at all times been rendered to them in furtherance of the objects of their investigations.

As another gratifying feature of their labor, the commission are also enabled to report a most cheerful and prompt coöperation on the part of the representatives of nearly all the industrial interests of the country, for all which services they herewith tender their unqualified acknowledgments.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. WELLS,
STEPHEN COLWELL,
S. S. HAYES.

TERRIBLE DISASTERS.

Explosions on the Steamers Miami and Missouri—Two Hundred and Fifty Lives Lost.

CINCINNATI, Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The steamer *Miami*, which exploded on the Arkansas River, had about 250 passengers on board, among whom were 91 men of Company Thirteen of the Thirteenth United States Cavalry. The accident occurred at 7 o'clock in the evening, just after sup-...

[illegible]

Albert Starkweather found Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

HARTFORD, Conn., Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The jury in the Starkweather murder trial returned a verdict this morning of guilty of murder in the first degree. They were out only nineteen minutes. The prisoner was remanded for sentence.

The Court announced that the sentence would be delayed until after the third Friday in February, at which time the Supreme Court of Errors meets, in order to give the defence an opportunity, if any new developments shall transpire, to move for a new trial.

The prisoner, when the verdict was rendered, maintained that complete self-possession which has characterized his conduct during the entire trial.

WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKET.

Prices current for the week ending Wednesday, Jan. 31, reported exclusively for the New-York Times, by Messrs. STARIN & FLOYD, Produce Commission Merchants, No. 733 Duane-street. Our quotations are for sound merchantable property in good clean packages.

BUTTER.

The depression in the market for Butter, and the increase of stock on the market, (noted in our late reports,) has had the effect of causing holders and receivers to freely meet the requirements of the trade, and, as a consequence, the demand during the past week has been quite active, and heavy lines of Butter have been sold for Southern and Eastern trade, at the concessions made. The local trade have lately been buying lightly during the decline in prices; but a better demand now prevails, as most of them are quite bare of stock. The total receipts of Butter during the past week were 13,973 packages, which is a full average for the season. Our advices from the English markets show a slight improvement in demand and price, but nothing that will warrant shippers in touching good to fine State Butter at anything approaching our present rates. Western Butters, in firkins and rolls in barrels, are arriving more freely, but the inferior quality of most of the stock prevents trade to any extent. Canada Stock and low grades of Western have been entirely without movement for some weeks; but since our last a few lots have been taken for the English market at from 23c.@24c. We note heavy sales of good to fine State Dairies at from 34c.@38c., at which rates the market was well cleared of desirable parcels, and closes with better feeling and more tone. Our quotations are unchanged.

[illegible]

Cherries, New Pitted, ℔ ℔	45	@50
Blackberries, ℔ ℔	31	@33
Raspberries, ℔ ℔	45	@48
Plums, ℔ ℔	34	@36

SUNDRIES.

Barley Malt, Prime, ℔ bushel	$1 35	@$1 41
Beeswax, Prime Yellow, ℔ ℔	46	@ 47
Broom Corn, in bale, ℔ ℔	8	@ 13
Clover Seed, ℔ ℔	13	@ 14½
Timothy Seed, ℔ bushel	4 00	@ 4 50
Rough Flax Seed, ℔ bushel	2 85	@ 3 00
New Buckwheat, per 100 ℔s	3 25	@ 3 75
Feathers, Live Geese, ℔ ℔	70	@ 73
Chestnuts, ℔ bushel	4 50	@ 5 00
Honey, white clover, in glass, ℔ ℔	35	@ 37
Honey, Buckwheat, in glass, ℔ ℔	30	@ 33

	Live.	Dressed.
Prime, heavy West'n Corn-fed Hogs ℔ ℔	10¾@10⅞	— @12¾
Prime Light, do. do.	10½@10⅝	— @12½
Poor Hogs, ℔ ℔	10@10¼	— @12¼

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 31, 1866.

The Live Stock Markets this week have received about the average supply of most kinds of animals. Trade in beef cattle commenced more active than on several previous weeks, but closed with no marked advance in prices over the quotations in our last report. On Tuesday trade was remarkably dull, and more cattle remained in the yards at the close of the market than were kept over the previous week. The general quality of the cattle offered was about the same as for two or three previous weeks. Prices ranged from 11c.@18c., dressed weight, for poor to best grades of animals. Veal calves are in good demand, selling at 12c.@14c. live weight. The price of sheep has advanced a trifle since our last report. The trade in milch cows is not as active as last week, and prices are still falling for all grades of cows. The receipts of live hogs are about equal to the usual average, and the prices are firm at the quotations of last week.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK AND COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING JAN. 31, 1866.

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
This week	6,105	130	416	18,017	10,151
Previous week	5,077	55	462	15,180	8,261
Two weeks ago	5,979	103	480	20,823	14,347
Same week last year	7,113	69	466	17,312	6,712
Weekly average in 1865	5,280	118	1,333	16,238	11,023
Weekly average in 1864	5,131	145	1,463	14,361	14,686
Weekly average in 1863	5,009	120	603	10,044	21,032
Weekly average of all kinds in 1865					20,520
Total of all kinds in 1865					920,640

The total number of all kinds of animals received during the week past at the New-York City yards is 35,739. Of this number 44 Beeves, 65 Cows, 72 Calves and 8,316 Sheep were taken to Browning's, and 39 cattle to O'Brien's, on Sixth-street. At Allerton's, on Forty-fourth-street, 3,564 cattle, 32 Cows, 297 Calves ...

[illegible]

FOREIGN NEWS.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamship New-York at this Port—The French Occupation of Mexico—Rumored Overtures from Napoleon to the United States Government—He is ready to Withdraw his Troops on the Recognition of Maximilian—End of the Military Revolt in Spain—Gen. Prim Secures his Retreat into Portugal—Terrible Disaster at Sea—A Steamer Founders in the Bay of Biscay—Loss of Two Hundred and Fifty Lives.

The steamship *New-York*, from Southampton on the 18th of January, arrived here Wednesday evening.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.

Rumored Willingness of Napoleon to Withdraw the French Troops from Mexico—A Terrible Dilemma.

From the London Star, Jan. 17.

We have heard, on authority which we regard as reliable, that the Emperor NAPOLEON has positively intimated to the Cabinet of Washington his willingness to withdraw his troops from Mexico at any moment, on condition that the government of the United States recognizes the empire of Mexico.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S MISTAKE.

From the London Times, Jan. 17.

The intervention in Mexico was a mistake, though we are precluded from condemning it too loudly. Our own government was ill-advised enough to concur in the moderate attempt at first suggested, and we can only congratulate ourselves that it had the discretion to retire as soon as it could with decency. *It ought to have been seen from the first that it would be impossible to restrict the movement to its proposed dimensions, and even were it possible, the movement would still be impolitic.* The practical question is, however—what shall the Emperor NAPOLEON do? Luckily, it is not our function to determine his future policy. There are some situations in which it seems equally impossible to advance or retreat. The Emperor may, however, persuade himself that he must either advance or retreat; it is impossible to do both, as so many people would willingly do, and it is equally impossible to stand still. If he retreat, he exposes himself to the imputation of failure, and must run the risk of the disfavor with which the French are very apt to feel toward anything like want of military success; but he would be relieved from considerable expense, would mitigate some domestic opposition, and would appease the American people. If he persist, he must be prepared for growing embarrassments and must brave American resentment. We are not inclined to reckon this last danger so threatening as it is sometimes assumed to be. American officials must, of course, resent the establishment of an empire in Mexico; it is opposed to every tradition of American policy, and it is a simple duty to protest against it. American politicians and writers must and will declaim against it, were it only because a little bluster against MAXIMILIAN is such an easy escape from the discussions of delicate domestic problems. But were he to withdraw his support, *it is most probable that the Emperor Maximilian would soon return to Europe, and the Emperor Napoleon would have to acknowledge that a scheme upon which he had lavished thousands of French lives and millions of French money had ignominiously failed*, and that the French army had been compelled to recoil from before a contemptible enemy. It is a most painful dilemma.

THE REVOLUTION IN SPAIN.

Latest Phases of the Movement—Its Probable Failure.

A dispatch from Madrid of Jan. 12 says: "The latest official dispatches state that the insurgents continue to fly toward the Portuguese frontier, having abandoned the high road in order to follow the mountain passes, where cavalry are only able to march in single file. One of the five officers who held a command among the insurgents has surrendered to Gen. ZABALA. Every day stragglers are coming in to the royal troops. It is supposed that Gen. PRIM intends debouching at Talavera de la Reyna, in order to cross Estramadura, and thus make for the Portuguese frontier; but this supposition is somewhat impaired by the fact that the bridges and fords, both on the Tagus and the Guadiana, are in the hands of the royal troops."

A telegram from Madrid of Jan. 14 says: "Gen. PRIM is now in the Guadalupe Mountains. Gens. ZABALA and ECHAGUE report that they cannot descend into the valleys and will be obliged to continue the pursuit along the heights, abandoning their horses and baggage."

Gen. PRIM is stated to have deceived his soldiers by representing that ESPARTERO directed the insurrectionary movement.

The Paris *Moniteur* says: "No further doubts are entertained in Madrid that Gen. PRIM will be compelled either to surrender or to enter Portugal within the next three days."

GEN. PRIM RETREATING INTO PORTUGAL.

The latest telegrams say it is officially announced that the Spanish insurgents under PRIM are retreating precipitately toward Portugal.

Life in Madrid—Street Firing and False Alarms—A General State of Terror.

Correspondence of the London Times.

MADRID, Thursday, Jan. 11.

Last evening, at 5:15, as I was discussing news at my banker's, I was interrupted by two of the clerks, who bounced in crying out that there was firing in the streets. The words were hardly out of their mouths when we heard three distinct shots at no great distance, with that peculiarly sharp detonation which makes musketry fire so appalling when confined within walls. The business of the bank broke up in confusion; we rushed into the street, and all dispersed in different directions, every man making the best of his way to his own home. The scene out of doors was one of wild excitement. Shop and house doors were being banged to with trembling haste; there was a hurry-scurry of people crowding, pushing, trampling; a shouting of coachmen, madly lashing their horses and urging them on at the top of their speed. The shots had been heard from what are called the Barrios Bajos, the lower quarters, at the foot of the Toledo and Ancha streets, the abode of the most miserable, most vicious, most riotous population of Madrid. I have not been able to make out what the row was about—possibly a patrol of civil guards dispersing some groups of starving wretches; possibly a few mutineers in the barracks being put down by their comrades. Such scenes have, since the proclamation of the state of siege become as frequent among the military as among the populace. Whatever it might be, I made my way up the Carrera de San Geronimo to that Puerta del Sol which a man must cross in Madrid, no matter whence coming, no matter whither going. The great tide of terrified people was setting in along with me, and invading the square, which had not as yet caught the alarm. I went up the whole length of the square, and had barely entered the Calle del Arenal, when I heard a great rush and some piercing hisses. The crowd, pushing their way into the narrow streets, forced me on. Men, women and children were borne along in awful confusion; vast masses flung themselves pell-mell into the side streets; with the remainder I made my best way into my hotel. The shutting of doors and windows, the utter disappearance of the terrified mob, were the work of a few seconds. Presently, as silence began to reign, there was a trampling of hoofs, a flashing of helmets, breastplates and broad swords; it was the Queen's coach and six coming back from the Prado, preceded and followed by its mounted escort. At the *table d'hôte* dinner the guests dropped in singly long after their time, and every one had some tale to tell of his share in the scrimmage. One had seen the caffe and confectioners' shops hastily closing; another had been present at a charge made by the Civil Guards with lances and bayonets at some ragamuffins, the effect of which had been to clear the Puerta del Sol in the twinkling of an eye. In half an hour the stillness of death prevailed, and continued to reign throughout the night.

MADRID, Friday, Jan. 12.

If the soldiers are to raise a prime minister, as the old Prætorians did an emperor, on their shields to power, could not, at least thought the Progresistas, something be done to try the soldiers' temper, something to bring about that *pronunciamento* to which they are supposed to be so strongly inclined? This was the plan of operations laid out for Wednesday evening, and the result was, as I said, "much cry and little wool." In the first place there was no firing. Those few random shots which I and others with me heard were not musketry fire, but mere *petards* by which attempts were made to create alarm. Whenever and wherever one of those reports was heard, there was a rush and a run, and the natural huddling together of the terrified multitude afforded an opportunity for setting up the cries, "*Viva Prim!*" "Down with the government!" cries, however, which the crowd, only anxious to get out of the turmoil, did not stop to echo. Some wretches of the very lowest classes had been plied with wine till they reeled with it, and it was these that by their hisses so very nearly brought about a collision between the mob and the civil guards at the Puerta del Sol. Finally a band of mere urchins from school—not students from the university, but mere schoolboys, the oldest hardly 12 or 10 years old, upon being relieved from their day's task, and coming forth into their street, Calle Ancha de San Bernardo, set up the cry of "*Viva Prim!*" and came on, a puny disorderly phalanx, toward the Puerta del Sol. They were met by half a squadron or patrol of cavalry, such as may be seen daily riding about the streets in these troubled times, and began hooting and hissing at them. The good-natured troopers went their way, heedless of the taunts; though their officer, nettled at the word "*Cobarde!*" that was flung in his teeth, had laid his hand on his sword, and had drawn it; but he simply shook his head and rode on. The forbearance of the cavalry was imitated by the foot soldiers and Civil Guards on duty at the Puerta del Sol, who contented themselves with merely showing their bayonets to the juvenile rioters, and, having cleared the square, allowed them to hiss to their hearts' content and with full impunity, in the side streets.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Cabinet Council—The Reform Bill—Marriage of the Princess Helena.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury. Summonses were issued for a Cabinet Council on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Parliament will be opened on Feb. 1.

The Sunday Gazette says: "We have good reason to believe that the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government was only laid before the Cabinet on Wednesday last, and then in the shape of a project of which Lord RUSSELL and Mr. GLADSTONE were the authors. We do not expect Ministers will be prepared to introduce the bill very early in the session."

The same paper says: "The marriage of Prince CHRISTIAN and the Princess HELENA will not be celebrated before July."

The *Times* says: "The Hon. JULIAN FANE has been appointed Secretary of Embassy at Paris, a post which has become vacant by the lamented death of Mr. GREY. A better choice could not have been made. Mr. FANE has been one of the ablest and most hard-working members of his profession. At Vienna, his services have been most valuable. The Paris Embassy is our chief mission abroad, since Paris is politically the capital of the Continent."

A letter from Torbay states that 31 fine vessels and 11 fishing-sloops were dashed to pieces on the shore. It is feared that 150 men must have perished.

The cattle plague continues to rage violently in several of the counties. In Nantwich, Cheshire, 1,257 fresh cases have been reported during the past week.

No farther arrests or seizures of Fenians have taken place.

Foundering of the Steamship London—Loss of Two Hundred and Fifty Lives—Terrible Scenes.

The steamship *London*, from London to Melbourne, has foundered at sea, with about 270 souls on board. The survivors—16 of the crew and 3 passengers—were landed at Falmouth on Jan. 16. The *Western Mail* gives the following account of the closing scene of this terrible disaster:

"It was at 10 o'clock on the morning of that fatal Thursday that Capt. MARTIN had the terrible task of making known to the 200 passengers that the ship was sinking, and that they must prepare for the worst. She was then as low in the water as the main chains. The whole of the passengers and crew gathered, as with one consent, in the chief saloon, and having been calmly told by Capt. MARTIN that there was no hope left, a remarkable and unanimous spirit of resignation came over them at once. There was no screaming or shrieking by women or men, no rushing on deck, or frantic cries. All calmly resorted to the saloon, where Rev. Mr. DRAPER, one of the passengers, prayed aloud, and exhorted the unhappy creatures by whom he was surrounded. Dismay was present to every heart, but disorder to none. Mothers were weeping sadly over the little ones about with them to be engulfed, and the children, ignorant of their coming death, were pitifully inquiring the cause of so much woe. Friends were taking leave of friends, as if preparing for a long journey; others were crouched down with Bibles in their hands, endeavoring to snatch consolation from passages long known or long neglected. Incredible, we are told, was the composure which, under such circumstances, reigned around. Capt. MARTIN stationed himself in the poop, going occasionally forward or into the saloon; but to none could he offer a word of comfort by telling them that their safety was even probable. He joined now and then for a few moments in the public devotions, but his place to the last was on the deck. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the water gaining fast on the ship and no signs of the storm subsiding being apparent, a small band of men determined to trust themselves to the mercy of the waves in a boat rather than go down without a struggle. Leaving the saloon, therefore, they got out and lowered away the port cutter, into which 16 of the crew and three of the passengers succeeded in getting and in launching her clear of the ship. These 19 men shouted for the captain to come with them, but with that heroic courage which was his chief characteristic, he declined to go with them, saying: 'No, I will go down with the passengers; but I wish you God speed and safe to land.' The boat then pulled away, tossing about helplessly on the crests of the gigantic waves. Scarcely had they gone eighty yards, or been five minutes off the deck, when the fine steamer went down stern foremost with her crew of human beings, from whom one confused cry of helpless terror arose, and all was silent for ever.

After the pinnace had got away from the *London*, and in the brief interval before she foundered, a rush was seen to be made for the two remaining boats, but the efforts to launch them were ineffectual, and the suddenness of the foundering at last—the *London* being an iron ship—prevented what might have been a successful second attempt to save a few more lives."

The Suez Canal—What has been Already Achieved.

A correspondent of the London *Times* gives the following account of the progress of the work on the Suez Canal:

The western jetty at Port Said has advanced considerably, and now forms part of the isolated island, thus forming an uninterrupted pier of 4,800 feet long, with a depth of from 9 to 16 feet, the result of dredging operations.

The number of vessels which have discharged their cargoes at this new town of Port Said, five years ago a blank and dismal waste is as follows:

American	2	Italian	34
British	77	Jerusalem	71
Austrian	161	Prussian	6
Belgian	5	Russian	230
Brazilian	6	Swedish and Norwegian	8
French	384	Turk and Egyptian	1,028
Greek	227		
Dutch	3	Total	2,037

This account includes all the vessels registered up to the 1st of July, 1865, and their cargoes being chiefly materials and provisions for carrying out this great work, it will be readily seen with what unabated vigor it is being pushed forward.

All along the maritime canal the greatest activity prevails. Nor are the accessory fresh-water canals, meanwhile, neglected. At the end of December 30,000 Egyptian workmen were busy excavating the line of fresh-water canal between Bubastis and Abassie. I ought to mention that this portion of the work is being completed by the Viceroy of Egypt, under the superintendence of the company's engineers.

In clearing away the heaps of earth beneath which the Rocks of Chalouf, in the desert, have been buried for ages, our men discovered a quantity of marine shells. Remains of fish, and more particularly of the shark tribe, have also been brought to light. These highly interesting specimens have been carefully collected, and may materially aid geologists in determining the phases in the formation of the isthmus between the two seas.

It is generally known that a passage between them has been effected, and that it is the intention of the Canal Company to throw it open to the commerce of all nations. Of course, for the present, and until we have obtained a depth of twenty-six feet and a width proportionate to that depth, only the smaller class of vessels will be able to take advantage of the opening, and the Mediterranean ports may find their commercial geographical positions suddenly changed and brought almost face to face with countries now the most remote from them. I allude to the harbors along the Red Sea, on the Asiatic and African side. In 1857 I pointed out to the meetings held in this country the immense advantages which must accrue from this new outlet. The harbors on the Arabian side are capable of receiving fleets of fishing vessels and are completely landlocked. From the interior of Abyssinia can be procured ivory, horns, hides, ostrich feathers, gums arabic, myrrh, and, indeed, large quantities are exported annually at the entrance of the Red Sea. In looking over the list of vessels which discharged at Port Said, I find Greece figures for no less than 227 vessels, and doubtless that country will be the first to benefit by the new state of things, and the customs revenue in Greece might assume sufficient proportions to form a guarantee to be hypothecated to the creation of a new loan for the purpose of paying off a portion of the old one to begin with. Good faith once established, Greece may become a highly prosperous country again.

M. DE LESSEPS is now in Egypt, directing everything with his usual energy.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamship Africa at Halifax—Important Announcement with Regard to Mexico—Arrangements to be made for the Immediate Withdrawal of French Troops—The Absurd Revolution in Spain—Gen. Prim Still Retreating and the Royal Troops Pursuing at a Safe Distance—Alarming Increase of the Cattle Disease in England.

The steamship *Africa*, Capt. HOCKLEY, left Liverpool at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 20th, Queenstown the evening of the 21st, and arrived at Halifax at 12:30 P. M., Feb. 1. She has 16 passengers for Halifax and 47 for Boston.

The steamship *City of Cork* also left Liverpool the 20th for New-York.

The steamship *Saxonia*, from New-York, reached Southampton early on the 19th.

The steamship *City of Washington*, from New-York, and the *Peruvian*, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool the night of the 18th.

The *Australasian* did not call at Queenstown owing to a strong gale and heavy sea, and reached Liverpool after 2 o'clock on Jan. 20. Her news did not transpire until after business hours.

The steamship *Marathon*, from New-York, arrived at Liverpool on the 21st ult.

Purser WILSON reports: *Africa* passed, 20th, 1 P. M., ship *Dundonald*, bound in; 27th, lat. 46, long. 39, assisted ship *Thornton*, of New-York, with iron bolts and barometer. Had lost rudder and one man overboard.

France.

The Paris *Presse* of the 19th announces that Baron SALLARD left Paris on the 18th for the purpose of making necessary arrangements with the Emperor MAXIMILIAN for the return of the French troops from Mexico at the earliest possible date.

The weekly returns of the Bank of France show a decrease in cash of 11,000,000 francs.

The Bourse, on the 19th, closed flat. Rentes 68f. 55c.

Spain.

On the 16th PRIM's insurgent forces were still on the road to Portugal. The royal troops were taking many prisoners, notwithstanding the forced marches of the insurgents.

A Madrid telegram of the 18th says it is thought probable that PRIM would enter Andalusia, as the royal troops have barred the passage into Portugal.

A band of armed men had appeared in the mountains of Tarragona. Royal troops were in pursuit. On the 17th PRIM passed the night at Berlanga. It was not then apparent whether he would attempt to penetrate into Andalusia or cross over into Portugal.

Madrid continued tranquil, but there were rumors of risings in various parts of Spain. Semi-official correspondence qualifies these reports of risings as having no importance, and says it is believed that the government abandons its hitherto humane course of procedure it understood, is about to adopt a vigorous system of repression.

The sergeants who attempted to get up a mutiny of the Alcala regiment and release the convicts, were shot on the 18th.

Great Britain.

The London *Observer* says that Mr. GLADSTONE will dispose of the surplus revenue by removing a number of small articles from the tariff and by a reduction of the sugar duties.

The London *Globe* says it is doubtful whether the [illegible]

interest on the Mexican debt will be paid. The funds in Europe are totally exhausted and it is impossible to raise a new loan.

The London *Times* contradicts the report that LAYARD resigned the Under-Secretaryship of Foreign Affairs.

The recent terrible shipping disaster continues the leading theme of English journals. The weather continues stormy.

The steamer *London*, which foundered at sea, was valued at £8,500, and her cargo was insured for £22,000. It is confirmed that Rev. Dr. WOOLLEY, the new Bishop of Sydney, and G. V. BROOKE, the actor, were among the passengers.

The death of GIBSON, the eminent sculptor, is announced.

The cattle disease in England still continues to increase. Latest returns show that the number attacked in a week approaches 10,000.

The *Army & Navy Gazette* believes the final touch has been given to the reduction in the army for the next financial year. It is less than expected. Infantry battalions at home or returning will be reduced two companies. It is said the cavalry will escape the reduction altogether.

The Fenian trials continue to progress at Dublin.

A quantity of military uniforms, supposed to belong to Fenian officers, were discovered near Clonakea.

An active search is still going on in Ireland for Head Centre STEPHENS.

On the 23d of December, in lat. 40 N., lon. 48 W., what was supposed to be one of the Atlantic cable buoys was seen by a passing ship.

Austria.

At a meeting of the Florence emigrants from Venetia, residing in Italy, a resolution was adopted declaring the amnesty claimed by Austria illusory and unacceptable.

The Central Congregation of Venice has rejected an address of thanks to the Emperor for removing the sequestration upon the property of emigrants.

India.

BOMBAY, Jan. 12.

Cotton goods firm. Cotton shipments of the week, 43,000 bales. Freights to Liverpool, 86s. Exchange, 2s. 2⅛d.

CALCUTTA, Jan. 10.

Cotton goods firm and advancing. Exchange, 2s. 1⅞d. Freights, 45s. Discount has again advanced ½ ℔ cent.

Cape of Good Hope.

The December mails from the Cape have been received. Business was very dull. The war on the frontier continued of a desultory character.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

Arrival of the Steamship Atlantic.

The steamer *Atlantic*, from Aspinwall, Jan. 23, arrived at this port yesterday morning. She brings later intelligence from South America.

Hon. F. HASSAUREK, United States Minister to Ecuador, was a passenger on the *Atlantic*, having obtained leave of absence from his post.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Confirmation of the Death of Admiral Pareja—His Successor—Restriction of the Blockade of Chilian Ports—Commercial Affairs.

PANAMA, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1866.

The British mail steamship *Santiago* arrived at Panama from South American ports on the 20th instant. Her dates from Valparaiso and Santiago de Chili are to the 2d instant, and from Lima and Callao to the 13th. The report that Admiral PAREJA, who held diplomatic powers, had committed suicide on the flag-ship, is confirmed. The facts of this melancholy occurrence are substantially those I transmitted to you in my last. He shot himself on Nov. 28, the day after he was visited by and heard the news of the loss of the *Covadonga* from Consul CLARK, at Valparaiso. The fact was not known in Valparaiso till Dec. 16, when an offer was made to the commander of the Spanish ship *Blanca*, by the Chilian authorities, to receive and inter the corpse in the city cemetery until it could be transported to Spain. The commander thanked the authorities for their courteous offer, but regretted that it came too late, as the waters of the Pacific had already received the body of the Spanish Admiral. On the day of his death, the Admiral dined at his accustomed hour, and afterward shut himself up in his cabin. Some time after the report of a pistol, discharged from a port-hole, was heard; after that another; and then a pistol-shot inside the cabin. The officers on deck took little notice of the two shots from the port-hole, but were astonished at the shot within the cabin, followed as it was by a death-like silence. They entered the Admiral's cabin, and found his corpse, attired in full uniform, stretched upon his bed, the head pierced by a ball from his revolver.

The *Mercurio* of Valparaiso says this event has naturally been the theme of private conversation and discussion in the press. It has been unanimously attributed to the depression and mortification that the unfortunate Admiral must have felt at the disapprobation of his conduct explicitly expressed by the representatives of all nations, and the resentful chagrin his pride had to suffer from the scornful derision with which his menaces were greeted, and above all from the capture of one of his ships in the very midst of his squadron. Added to this he could not hide from himself the tremendous responsibility he had incurred by entangling his country in a war without object and without glory, or anything to justify the sacrifices of blood or money necessary to continue it. These considerations must have weighed upon him with so intolerable a burden of remorse and disappointment, that the poor harassed man, sorely tried by his dark hour, grasped the awful solution of self-murder.

Brigadier Don CASTO MENDEZ NUNEZ, Commander of the *Numancia*, has temporarily succeeded Admiral PAREJA in the command of the Spanish squadron.

Capt. NUNEZ has restricted the blockade to the ports of Valparaiso and Caldera, abandoning Talcahuano, Tomé, Herradura and Coquimbo. He divided his fleet into two divisions, *Villa de Madrid*, *Resolucion*, *Blanca* and *Vencedora*, being at Valparaiso, and the *Numancia* iron-clad, *Berenguela* and *Marques de la Victoria* being at Caldera. The Valparaiso papers complacently remark that the object of this concentration is to preclude the possibility of another of the Spanish ships sharing the fate of the *Covadonga*. The loss of this latter dispatch-vessel is a great source of inconvenience to the squadron, and has demonstrated the necessity of using larger and more powerful vessels to convey dispatches from one blockade port to another. Two sailing vessels used as transports had to avail themselves of the protection of the *Resolucion* on the 26th of November, in leaving Valparaiso in search of provisions. As Peru is now almost in open war with Spain, it is difficult to imagine where these vessels will find supplies.

While the new chief of the squadron, says the *Mercurio*, was engaged in the organization of his forces, in order to preserve them from piecemeal destruction, the news of the fall of PEZET and of the triumph of the revolution in Peru arrived. As is well known, that revolution originated in the indignation felt by the Peruvian people at the ignominious arrangement of the Spanish question by President PEZET, as also because the treaty adjusted by VIVANCO and PAREJA had been carried out without the approbation of the Legislature, which the constitution of the country demands. The government of PEZET having fallen, and being replaced by that which is the offspring of the revolution caused by his villany, the Spaniards have lost a secret ally, and in exchange have got one enemy more who immediately would prevent, or at any rate would render extremely difficult, the sending supplies to their vessels from his country, and later on might probably wage open war with them.

Commerce has greatly revived in Chili on account of the opening of free ports. Importations have been very large, and the vessels that have arrived with cargoes and in ballast have scarcely been sufficient to take away the plentiful stock of produce awaiting shipment. The wheat and other grains of the country have been completely cleared off by the great demand from Australia and other countries. An expected rise in copper in England has caused a great revival in working that mineral, and the demand is very active.

A gentleman in Panama has received a letter from Copiapo, published in the *Mercantile Chronicle*, in which the writer states that a frigate of the Spanish fleet had attempted to cut out the little steamer *Maria Louisa*, carrying the Columbian flag, at Caldera, on the Chilian coast, but was prevented from doing so by a force of troops which were opportunely sent to protect her. The Spaniards, on returning to their vessels, "pounded away with shells and balls at the troops on shore, who replied with musket shots." No one was hurt, but the writer thinks the Columbian flag has received a grave insult, which must be atoned for. The *Maria Louisa*, according to the Lima *Comercio*, was destroyed by the cannon of the *Berenguela*.

Peru.

There is nothing of importance from Peru, save a decree of the government against the exportation of provisions, coals and military supplies for the use of the Spanish squadron.

Bolivia.

Letters from Tacna to the 1st of January leave the forces of MELGAREJO and ARGUEDOS within a short distance of each other near Oruro, with the prospect of an early battle.

PANAMA.

The Country Quiet—Expected Opening of Congress—The Right of the United States to Free Transit across the Isthmus.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

PANAMA, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1866.

The interior of the country generally is quiet, awaiting the opening of Congress at Bogota on the 1st of February. Gen. MOSQUERA, President-elect, was expected to arrive at Aspinwall on the British steamer yesterday, but did not come.

Gen. HERRAN, son-in-law of Gen. MOSQUERA, and late New-Granadian Minister to Washington, came passenger in the last steamer from Peru. He will probably be MOSQUERA's Minister to England. Señor JUSTO AROSEMENA, of Panama, has been tendered the position of national Secretary of State.

Gen. MOSQUERA has not given up his favorite project of making Panama the capital of the republic, but will press the subject with his accustomed energy in the present Congress of Bogota.

Considerable discussion having been had about the right of the United States to the free use of the Isthmus for the passage of troops to and from the Pacific, the Panama *Star and Herald* publishes the following extract from a late interpretation of an old treaty:

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
BOGOTA, May 15, 1858.

To the Secretary of the Government of the Sovereign State of Panama:

The President of the Union to whom I communicated your note of 18th January last, has ordered me to transmit to you the following instructions, to which the government of that State will conform in all that relates to the passage of foreign troops across the Isthmus, those hitherto given on the same subject being hereby revoked and annulled:

1. The passage of troops over the Isthmus is, as a rule, prohibited to all nations, unless the permission of Congress be first obtained, in accordance with Section 4, Article 49, of the constitution.

2. In accordance with Article 35 of the treaty with the United States of America, of Dec. 12, 1846, the government of Colombia guarantees the right of way or transit over the Isthmus, not only to citizens but likewise to the government of the United States, and consequently North American troops, as well as prisoners of war under the jurisdiction of the federal authority, can pass as part of the ordinary service of its administration, a right which is hereby declared to be a compensation for the guarantee of sovereignty and ownership of the Isthmus, which that government is bound to secure to us.

ANTONIO DE REAL.

The main question that has sprung up, however, is not the right to pass troops thus, but as to whether the officers have the right to protect their commands on the transit. The authorities say that in case of desertion on the route, the officers have no right to send their forces out of the beaten track to hunt up and arrest the delinquents, but must make requisition on the Panama authorities to do it. This is a most ridiculous idea, it seems to me. With such a proviso, the right to cross would be of but little value. If a body of the men should revolt or desert at any station on the road, before a requisition could be made and responded to by the Panama authorities, a day or two would elapse, and the men would be nobody knows where. In the meantime the steamer for California would be far on its way up the Pacific, and if the men were caught at all they would have to be kept over, with great trouble and expense, till another steamer. The right to cross the Isthmus would seem to carry with it the right to secure and protect the command in crossing.

The *Atlantic* takes to-day $944,000 in gold to New-York. Among the passengers will be Mr. HASSAUREK, United States Minister to Ecuador, and Purser BLACK, one of the *Salvador* "pirates," pardoned out of the California Penitentiary by President JOHNSON.

The U. S. sloop-of-war *St. Mary's* is at Panama, and the gunboat *James Adger* at Aspinwall.

EDWARD MC— something, the barkeeper at Panama who helped MARK BRADLEY rob Paymaster RITTENHOUSE's safe in this city of $15,000 in gold, was arrested in San Francisco and brought down by Capt. SELIM WOODWORTH, on the *Golden City*, for trial. He proves to have been a deserter from the *Narragansett* at Panama, a year or two since, when she was commanded by Capt. WOODWORTH. It is believed that about $7,000 of the money he took to San Francisco will be recovered—$5,650 of the $15,000 was found in the possession of BRADLEY at the time of his arrest.

Central America.

The Panama Railroad Company's steamship *Guatemala* arrived at Panama from Central American ports on the 17th. From Guatemala, under date of the 8th, we learn that Gen. CRUZ attempted a revolution, which was frustrated, the government being cognizant of the plan in season. The General fled to the mountains. The principal cause of complaint is that government has monopolized the sale of aguardiente. The government is talking of changing the port for the City of Guatemala from San José to Los Lomas, two leagues to the westward, a much healthier spot than the present locality, but it is doubtful if the plan is carried into effect. The material for building one iron wharf at San José lies rusting on the ground.

The worm has attacked the cotton, and not much is expected from that crop. Coffee promises favorably. Rice abundant and cheap. Cocoa high and scarce.

In Salvador matters are quiet, but the government is uneasy, it having many and fearful enemies to contend against. A severe gale along the coast has damaged the cotton.

From Nicaragua and Costa Rica there is no [illegible]

THE ADAMS EXPRESS ROBBERY CASE.

Beginning of the Trial—The Prisoner Pleads Not Guilty—One of his Counsel Abandons the Case—The Testimony for the State—Poor Prospect for the Prisoner—Continued Public Interest in the Case—Barnum in Court.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Thursday, Feb. 1, 1866.

The show may be said to have opened this morning; that is, if the presence of the Hon. P. T. BARNUM, the great showman, within the bar may lend that character to the court-room. But no, Mr. BARNUM merely stepped in, in common with the other curiosity-seekers, to see what was going on. The court-room was again crowded. The large area or room over and behind the Judge's bench, the opening to which forms a capacious semi-circle, was thrown open. From this opening peered out the heads of a number of ladies. Some delay at the beginning of the day caused considerable speculation among the spectators as to the reason. It appeared that Mr. CHAPMAN, who was to champion CLARK's case through, had come to the conclusion that he was not sufficiently prepared to go on with the case. It was said by some suspicious persons that he had failed to obtain a retainer, and that he backed out of the case on that account. At all events, Mr. CHAPMAN had such urgent business elsewhere as to prevent his further appearance as counsel for CLARK. This left STEWART senior counsel for the prisoner. Under these circumstances, Mr. SHOPE, of New-York, made another motion for a continuance of the case to the March Term, owing to the departure of Mr. CHAPMAN, in whose hands the case had been committed, and in his absence the remaining counsel were left without any preparation whatever.

The Court denied the motion on the ground that this prisoner was not entitled to any favor which would not be extended to any other prisoner under a kindred charge; that is, a charge involving a like penalty.

The prisoner CLARK was ordered to stand up. The Clerk asked him if he was guilty, or not guilty, of the crime charged against him in the "information" read in his hearing yesterday.

The prisoner responded in a clear voice: "Not guilty."

The Court then ordered that a jury be empanneled, which was done with a facility which was admirable, in view of what would have taken place under like circumstances in New-York. In fact, setting up a jury here is the quickest transaction in the routine of the court business.

Mr. CLARENCE A. SEWARD opened by briefly stating the nature of the case to the jury, after which he read the depositions of several government clerks who had been compelled to return to their occupations at Washington. The first deposition was that of JAMES M. DAVIS, Private Secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. This was to establish the fact of the existence of a contract between Adams Express Company and the government for the carrying of currency notes to the various banks in all parts of the country, radiating from Washington.

Judge STEWART objected to the reading of the contract, on the ground that it was sought by the State to use it as a basis on which to predicate a value for the property which did not, could not belong to it, as he contended that the notes referred to as having been stolen from the company were not currency, being incomplete and unfinished for such purposes. It was not money until the banks to which it had been sent had put it in circulation as such, duly authenticated by them, and the obligations on its face duly assumed by the signature of the respective bank officers. The notes were worth nothing, were mere pictures, and were of no practical use as currency.

The Court ruled that the reading of the contract was admissible, if for no other reason than to show that so much paper had been contracted to be carried by the company.

The deposition of JOHN PATTEN, shipping clerk to the Comptroller's Bureau of the Treasury Department, was next read. He testified that he shipped the packages which had been stolen from the safes.

The deposition of Major J. F. BATES, book-keeper in the office of the Comptroller's Bureau, Washington, went to show [illegible] regularly entered the shipment of [illegible] in safe No. 4,666 to Boston.

C. B. EMMERY, agent of [illegible] Express Company in the Treasury building, Washington, testified to having signed the receipt [illegible] the Comptroller's Currency [illegible] values marked on [illegible] as they appeared on the manifest, a copy of which he produced in court.

Judge STEWART objected to the evidence pertaining to the manifest, the witness having refreshed his memory from the copy which he produced.

The Court admitted the evidence, subject to exception by the defence.

H. B. CROGAN, a clerk in the same office with Mr. BENEDICT, testified that he put the packages into safe 4,666 as they were read off from the manifest, but did not know anything of their contents.

BENJ. T. SMITH, of Brooklyn, identified a gold watch and mahogany case which contained it, which he had sent by Adams Express to his sister-in-law in Boston.

HENRY P. PORTER, agent for the Eastern Division of Adams Express Company, testified to having put a number of packages of various kinds in the safe numbered 3,037.

WM. MOORE, messenger, who accompanied the train which contained the car containing the safes, testified that he was in the smoking-car from where the train joined the locomotive in New-York. He looked at the left side of the car containing the safes twice between New-York and Bridgeport, but owing to the darkness of the night he did not see whether the padlock was on or not; he did not examine the right side of the car. He did not discover the fact of the door being open until he reached New-Haven, where he locked it up again and sent for Mr. WEBB before going into the car to examine it.

WASHINGTON WEBB, Superintendent for the Adams Express Company at New-Haven, testified as to the condition of the safes and the appearance of the interior of the car, when he entered it. The facts have already been published in the TIMES.

WM. H. BROWN, of Stamford, identified CLARK and TRISTRAM as persons who inquired anxiously if they could hire a horse and carriage from him, offering a gold watch and chain as security for it. He subsequently saw them both at the Union House. They got on the cars and rode in the same train with him as far as Norwalk.

B. A. SCHOFIELD, of Stamford, testified to seeing TRISTRAM at the Stamford House on the night on which the robbery took place.

A. L. HOPKINS, engaged in the livery business, testified to letting a carriage to TRISTRAM. TRISTRAM and CLARK went in the carriage together.

Judge STEWART objected to testimony being introduced as to the movements of TRISTRAM while the Court was trying the case of CLARK, and also the transactions which took place after the commission of the crime, after the stealing.

The Court ruled that as it was contemplated to show the hiring of the carriage as a link in the crime, inasmuch as the carriage appeared to be wanted for the purpose of transporting the stolen property from Greenwich to Norfolk.

JOSIAH TRISTRAM testified at length to the facts attendant upon the conduct of his son AUGUSTUS, and CLARK, the prisoner now at the bar, on the night of the robbery and the subsequent days, including his journey to New-York with a bag, and his return to Norwalk. His story is the same as was published a few days ago in the columns of the TIMES.

Mrs. JOSIAH TRISTRAM merely corroborated a portion of testimony given by the previous witness.

Mrs. EMMA WOLSEY, sister of JOSIAH TRISTRAM, who resides in the same house with him, testified to receiving the gold watch stolen from the safe (No. 3,037) from AUGUSTUS TRISTRAM; also some money. They (TRISTRAM and CLARK) went to her house at 10 o'clock on the 8th of January, and remained there most of the day.

Both Mrs. TRISTRAM and Mrs. WOLSEY were present in the house with CLARK and AUGUSTUS TRISTRAM when the officers came there looking for them.

Mr. WEBB was recalled, and produced a parcel of paper ashes, remains of a portion of the stolen property.

WILLIAM PATTERSON, a conductor on the Hartford and New-Haven Railroad, testified to noticing the lock of the door of the car at the depot in New-Haven, and his informing the messenger of the company of that fact.

JOHN REAL, of Cos-cob, saw two men passing by the mill near the bridge in a rockaway, and saw them return again in about ten minutes. He described the rockaway and the horse. The covers were down at both sides.

MICHAEL RIORDEN, who resides about a mile from Coscob, saw the wagon referred to by the other witnesses.

WM. H. BROWN knew that the wagon he saw at Norwalk was the same one which he had seen the prisoner in; he knew the wagon again because he had used it himself before.

GEORGE LOCKWOOD, boatman, residing at Greenwich, saw two men near the Coscob Bridge on the night of the 6th of January; they were on the railroad track; one of the men was taller than the other; one was stouter and taller than the other.

SOLOMON CLARK lives about 200 yards from the Coscob Bridge; he found a bag made of canvas, with a label attached, containing, as he supposed, $6,000 in gold; he also found the padlock and chain which had been wrenched from the car, some five hundred feet from the bridge, four days after the date of the robbery.

It was stated among counsel this afternoon that Mr. CHAPMAN had left the case, stating that he believed the Judge to be prejudiced, and that he was not going to risk his reputation, and stand such insolence as he had experienced at the hands of the Court yesterday. However this may be I know not. The Court is very prompt in ruling, patient in listening to objections as they are offered, and may, for aught I know, rule contrary to the principles of law. It is a [illegible] however, that sometimes Judges and counsel differ in their opinions as to rules in submitting evidence. I believe there is no exception to that practice in the conduct of this case so far. Mr. J. M. STUBBS took the place of Mr. CHAPMAN as associate with Judge STEWART.

Judge STEWART has exhibited masterly tact and legal ability throughout the day, losing no opportunity which presented itself of checking the liberties taken by the prosecution in their range of direct examination.

The two iron safes which were broken open, and what had been their contents were produced in court in the dilapidated condition in which they were found in the cars at New-Haven. Greenbacks were served up in sheets. The most objectionable feature in connection with this part of the proceedings, was the fact that they were carefully hoarded and watched by the prosecution. I did not see any "lying round loose." The greenbacks are in the custody of Mr. SEWARD. According to Judge STEWART, however, they would be of no immediate avail as they are worthless until signed by the officers of the banks to which they were consigned.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

Trouble with the Coolies at Honolulu—Affairs in China and Japan.

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, Feb. 1.

The crew of the clipper-ship *White Swallow*, just arrived from New-York, have been arrested for mutiny while off the coast of South America.

Advices from Honolulu to the 6th state that much trouble exists with the coolies, who are setting all rules and regulations at defiance.

The U. S. steamer *Lancaster* left Honolulu on the 6th for a cruise to Hilo.

A new eruption of the volcano of Maunaloa had occurred.

Advices from Hong Kong to the 1st ult. have been received. There were no new insurgent movements. It appears as if the Imperial government had extirpated rebellion from the land. The mandarins are endeavoring to conform to a more enlightened policy toward foreigners, being frightened by the appearance of the British Minister at Pekin.

From Japan we learn that an expedition of the ministers of Great Britain, France and the Netherlands has gone to negotiate relative to the opening of the port of Hiogo. Foreigners are better treated than ever before.

The Registry act passed the Senate (California) last evening.

The Northern Pacific Railroad.

BOSTON, Wednesday, Jan. 31.

A meeting of capitalists and merchants was held in this city, at the rooms of the Board of Trade, to consider the interests of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Speeches were made by Edward S. Toby, who presided; Ex-Gov. Smith, of Vermont, the new President of the company; Hon. John F. Driggs, M. C., of Michigan; Hon. E. D. Holbrook, M. C., of Idaho; Capt. Mullan, the celebrated explorer and engineer, and other gentlemen. The policy of the company was announced to be the immediate construction of about seven hundred miles of the road, to connect the waters of Lake Superior with the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, proceeding thence to the navigable waters of the Columbia, by which steam communication will be opened. It is proposed that this work shall be completed within three years.

The Richmond Legislature—Indorsement of the President's Policy.

RICHMOND, Va., Thursday, Feb. 1.

The Senate unanimously adopted a joint resolution to-day, declaring that the people of Virginia cordially approve of the reconstruction policy of President JOHNSON, and pledge coöperation in the wise and just action he has commenced. The second resolution denounces as criminal and cruel the efforts of those representing our views to be different from those we here assert.

Guerrillas in Alabama—Firing on Steamboats.

CAIRO, Thursday, Feb. 1.

Late Mobile papers state that the Tombigbee River is infested with guerrillas, who fire into and plunder passing steamers. A force had been sent from Mobile to dispose of them.

Small-pox prevails at Mobile, and is on the increase at Montgomery. It is very fatal among the freedmen.

The Fenian Scare in Canada—Precautions Against Raids.

OTTAWA, C. W., Thursday, Feb. 1.

It is understood that ample precautionary measures against the Fenian raids are being taken, by providing for a speedy concentration of volunteers and Imperial troops.

The Georgia Senatorship—Mr. Johnson Accepts.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Wednesday, Jan. 31.

HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON accepts the position of Senator.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—FEB. 1, 1866.

20,000 U. S. 6s, '81 R.	110	700 Erie Railroad	81½
2,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20s C. '64	101⅞	400 do. ....2d call	81⅜
5,000 do.	102	5 Sixth-av. R.	126
2,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20s C. '64	102	50 Reading R.	103⅜
20,000 Tr. Notes, 7 3-10s, First Series	99	200 do.	99
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
100 Cumb. Coal Pr.	45½	50 Chi. & N. W. Pr.	[illegible]
3 Del. & Hud. C.	136	50 Chi. & R. I.	[illegible]
200 Mariposa Min.	15	[illegible]	[illegible]
500 Mariposa Pref.	17¾	[illegible]	[illegible]
100 Western U. Tel.	54	[illegible]	[illegible]
200 Union Nav. Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
200 Wyom. V. Coal	50	[illegible]	[illegible]
170 Lehigh & Sus.	[illegible]	100 Mil. & P. du C. R.	[illegible]
200 Butler Coal b10	[illegible]	600 P., Ft. W. & C.	94
100 Schuylkill C.	16	[illegible]	[illegible]
1,000 N. Y. Cen. ....x-d	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	100 Alt. & T. H.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	150 Chi. & Alt. Pr.	108
[illegible]	[illegible]	100 Chic. & Alt.	107

THURSDAY, Feb. 1—P. M.

The customs duties in gold for the month of January, at the port of New-York, reached the large sum of $12,469,865, and judging by the reported import entries at Boston, the additional sum of about $2,250,000 has probably been received at that port. And at all the ports close on to *seventeen millions*. The Secretary of the Treasury, it will be remembered, estimated for only $100,000,000, from 1st October last to June 30 next, being for the last nine months of the current fiscal year, or an average of only $10,110,000 per month. For the four months of this term, the deposits for customs at the New-York office have been, in

October	$11,064,409	December	$8,378,335
November	10,138,001	January	12,469,865
Total for four months			$42,051,210
Add for other ports at least			14,000,000
Total, $14,012,802 per month, or			$56,051,210

We believe the average of the nine months will be nearer $15,000,000 ℔ month, without some great shock to trade not now anticipated. The whole customs revenue for the fiscal year we estimate at $160,000,000

Say, first quarter, actual	$47,000,683
Second quarter, approx.	39,000,000
Third quarter, estimated	48,000,000
Fourth quarter, estimated	46,000,000—$180,000,683

The price of gold to-day is 139⅞@140 ℔ cent., about the same as at 3 o'clock yesterday, but less firm than at the very close of business in the Gold-room last night. The California steamer arrived this morning and delivered $953,288 in gold and silver bars and coin, for which there is at present no export demand, owing to the falling rates of exchange. We learn that cotton bills on England, with shipping documents attached, have been done in New-Orleans as low as 104@104½ ℔ cent., and similar bills drawn in this market have been done as low as 105½@106½ ℔ cent. Standard bankers, who buy these and other merchant and Southern bank bills, are drawing at 108¼ ℔ cent.

The following is an official statement of the apportionment of national bank circulation in the various States and Territories, made under section 21, of amendment to currency act, approved March 3, 1865:

STATES AND TERRITORIES.	Apportionment by Comptroller of the Currency according to representative population	Apportionment by Secretary of the Treasury according to capital and resources	Aggregate
Maine	$3,000,000	$2,415,000	$5,415,000
New-Hampshire	1,457,000	1,735,000	[illegible]
Vermont	1,503,500	1,485,000	[illegible]
Massachusetts	6,350,000	15,815,000	21,765,000
Rhode Island	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Connecticut	2,197,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
New-York	18,808,800	34,305,000	53,113,800
New-Jersey	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pennsylvania	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Maryland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delaware	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Virginia / West Virginia	7,624,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ohio	11,175,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Michigan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wisconsin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Iowa	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Minnesota	810,000	240,000	1,050,000
Kansas	[illegible]	125,000	[illegible]
Missouri	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kentucky	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tennessee	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Louisiana	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nebraska Territory	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colorado Territory	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mississippi	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Georgia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
North Carolina	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
South Carolina	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Arkansas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alabama	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Utah Territory	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Washington Terry.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oregon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
California	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nevada Territory	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Arizona	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New-Mexico	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Florida	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dakota	12,000	15,000	27,000
Totals	$150,000,000	$150,000,000	$300,000,000

Internal Revenue Decisions.

Commissioner ROLLINS has addressed the following letter to Hon. A. H. RICE, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The letter of Mr. HENRY LINCOLN, addressed to you, and by you referred to me, has been received. "Bills of lading are subject to stamp duty; and if so, how much? Also, if each and every bill of lading should bear a stamp?" He incloses a copy of a ruling from this office by which inland and domestic bills of lading are held subject to stamp duties as receipts or agreements, according to their form, and says: "As we understand the law, bills of lading of vessels for ports of the United States or British North America are exempt."

An examination of schedule B, following section 170 of the act of June 30, 1864, will show that a stamp duty is specifically imposed upon one class of bills of lading only: viz.: upon bills of lading for any goods, merchandise or effects to be exported from a port or place of the United States to any foreign port or place. To this even there is an exception. In the last part of said schedule it is provided that the stamp duties therein imposed upon bills of lading shall not apply to steamboats or other vessels plying between ports in the United States and ports in British North America.

The act of Congress imposes a stamp duty of ten cents upon each foreign bill of lading, except those for goods, &c., transported upon steamboats or other vessels plying between ports of the United States and ports of British North America, but it is silent respecting inland and domestic bills of lading, as such.

A stamp duty of two cents, however, is imposed upon each receipt for the delivery of property; a duty of five cents is imposed upon each sheet or piece of paper upon which an agreement or contract is written.

It is admitted by Mr. LINCOLN that all bills of lading contain an agreement or contract. Domestic and inland bills of lading being neither otherwise charged nor expressly exempted from all stamp duty, fall under the general provisions of the law, and are to be taxed, not "as bills of lading," with ten cents each, but with two cents or five cents, according to whether they are receipts simply, or agreements.

If they are executed in sets of two or three, or more, each one should be stamped. Each has the same legal effect as the other, and the holder of either of them may find it necessary to use his copy in evidence.

I see no good reason for making any change in the ruling in question.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1866.

The attention of the collectors is called to the sixty-third section of the Internal Revenue Act, which proves that distillers' bonds may be renewed or changed from time to time, in regard to the amount and sureties thereof, according to the discretion of the collector; also, to instructions in form No. 30, (distillers' bonds,) which specify that the penal sum named in the distillers' bond should be twice as great as the probable amount of the monthly tax. See also section 17 of Circular 37.

The minimum amount of the penal sum named in the distiller's bond should be double the amount of duties upon the monthly production of the distillery, notwithstanding any portion of it may be placed in bond.

The collector should at once examine the bond of each distiller in his district, and if he does not find that the penal sum in every case conforms to the above rule, he should require a new bond, fixing the penal sum at the proper amount.

The collector should approve no bond unless the sureties upon it make oath that they have no pecuniary interest in the distillery, and that they are worth over and above their debts the amount for which they respectively qualified.

The collector should require a new bond whenever he has reason to believe that the sureties, or any of them, have acquired an interest in the distillery, or that any of them are unable, or are about to become unable, to respond in the amount for which they have justified.

When a distiller, relative to [illegible] suspicion is entertained, applies for [illegible] will see that the penal sum is [illegible] the sureties of abundant means [illegible] ages. The security must be commensurate with the risk.

No collector will suffer a distillery to be operated unless its owner comply with these regulations.

E. H. ROLLINS, Commissioner.

GENERAL MARKETS.

NEW-YORK, Thursday, Feb. 1, 1866.

ASHES—Pots are very quiet at $7 60@$7 75 ℔ 100 lbs. Pearls are unchanged.

COFFEE—Is dull but firm. Java at 27½c.@28½c.; Maracaibo at 21½c.@23½c.; Laguayra at 21c.@23c.; Rio at 17c.@21c.; Native Ceylon at 23½c.@24½c.; and St. Domingo at 17½c.@18c., cash, in gold, ℔ lb.

DRY GOODS—The Dry Goods Exchange report to-day is as follows: Jobbers' prices: Brown Sheetings—Atlantic A, 31c.; Atlantic D, 28c.; Atlantic E, 25c.; Great Falls M, 26c.; Great Falls S, 23c. Bleached Shirtings—Wamsutta, 45c.; James 36-inch, 31½c.; James 33-inch, 27c., James 31-inch, 25c.; Greene Manufacturing Co., 25c.; Canoe, 19c. Prints—Merrimack W, 25c.; Merrimack D, 24c.; Sprague, 22½c.; Hamilton, 22½c.; Arnold, 19½c. Delaines—Hamilton Woolen Company, 29c.; Hamilton Manufacturing Company, 25c. Ginghams—Lancaster, 29c.; Glasgow, 27c. Cambrics—Washington, 23c.; Manville, 22c. Selecias—Indian Orchard, 33½c.; Lonsdale, 32½c.; Corset Jeans—Naumkeag, 33c.; Naumkeag Satteen, 36½c. Canton Flannels—Naumkeag, 35c.; Nashua, 30c. Ticks—Methuen A A, 62½c.; Hamilton, 65c.; Hamilton D, 47½c. Stripes—Whittenden A, 40c.; Whittenden B B, 30c. Denims—York, 52c.; New-York, 40c. Hoop Skirts—Bradley's Duplex Elliptic, 20 to 50 hoops, 87½c.@$1 05; Empress Trail, $1 25; Meyers' I X L in good inquiry at former prices. The following dispatches were received at the Dry Goods Exchange to-day: St. Louis—Trade is rather quiet; buyers all afraid of the present high prices. Louisville—Goods in better demand; trade improved. Cincinnati—Market unchanged; demand light; there are no movements of any consequence. Chicago—Nothing new to report; trade fair for the season; stocks generally well assorted.

FLOUR AND MEAL—State and Western Flour has been in moderate request to-day, at declining prices. Sales since our last 7,600 bbls., including very inferior to choice Superfine State and Western at $6 60@$7 35; inferior to choice Extra State at $7 70@$8 30, chiefly at $7 80@$8 15; round-hoop Extra Ohio, inferior to good shipping brands, at $8 45@$8 65 ℔ bbl. We now quote:

Superfine State and Western	$6 60 @$7 35
Extra State	7 70 @ 8 30
Extra Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, &c.	7 75 @ 11 00
Extra Ohio, round-hoop, shipping brands	8 45 @ 8 65
Extra Ohio, trade and family brands	8 70 @ 11 25
Extra Genesee	8 40 @ 11 25
Poor to very choice extra Missouri	9 40 @ 15 00

Southern Flour is dull and heavy; sales since our last 650 bbls., in lots, at $8 75@$10 for poor to good, and $10@$16 25 for good to very choice extra brands, ℔ bbl. Canadian Flour is quiet and heavy; sales 200 bbls. Extra at $7 90@$11 ℔ bbl. Rye Flour continues plenty and depressed, including Superfine at $4 75@$5 50 ℔ bbl.; sales 120 bbls. Corn Meal continues quite heavy at $4@$4 15 for Western, $4 30@$4 60 for Jersey, and $4 50 for Brandywine, ℔ bbl. Sales 400 bbls.

GRAIN—Wheat has been quiet and depressed, especially the inferior qualities; sales 27,000 bushels, including new White Western at $2; Chicago Spring and Amber Wisconsin at $1 70@$1 75, the latter rate for a small lot; and new Amber State at $2 50 ℔ bushel. Corn is heavy and a trifle lower; sales since our last, 43,000 bushels at 80c.@85c. for unsound, and 84c.@86c. for sound Mixed Western, in store and delivered, and 85c.@86c. for new Yellow Southern ℔ bushel. Oats continue dull and heavy, including State at 57c.@58c.; Jersey and Pennsylvania at 50c.@55c.; Old Western at [illegible]; New Western at 40c.@44c. ℔ bushel. Rye continues quiet. Barley and Barley Malt continue inactive.

HAY—North River bale is in demand and steady at 80c.@95c. ℔ 100 lbs.

HOPS—Continue in demand, including last year's crop at 25c.@55c., and two years' old at 15c.@25c. ℔ lb.

NAVAL STORES—Continue dull and heavy, including Spirits Turpentine at 95c.@$1 ℔ gallon; Crude do. at $7 75@$8 25; Rosin at $3 12½@$10 ℔ 280 lbs.; Tar, $2 62½@$3 75 ℔ bbl.

OILS—Have been in limited request, including Crude Whale at $1 05; Bleached Whale at $1 00; $1 65; Crude Sperm at $2 60; Unbleached do. at $2 60; Lard Oil at $1 55@$1 60; Red Oil at 85c.@95c.; Linseed Oil at $1 42@$1 43 ℔ gallon.

PETROLEUM—Continues in limited demand, closing at 31½c.@32½c. for Crude; 53c.@54c. for Refined in bond, and 72c.@74c. for do. free, ℔ gallon.

PROVISIONS—Pork has been quiet, yet quoted pretty firm. Sales since our last 4,750 bbls. at $28 31½@$28 56¼ for new Mess, closing at $28 50, cash; $28 cash for one old Mess; $22 25@$22 50 for Prime Mess, $20 50@$21 for new Prime, ℔ bbl. Also 5,500 bbls. new Mess, for February, March and April, seller's option, at $28 50@$28 75 ℔ bbl. Total stock Feb. 1, 62,031 bbls.; same date last month, 34,778 bbls.; same date last year, 155,254 bbls. Cut Meats are quiet [illegible] at 11c.@12c. for Shoulders, and 15c.@18c. for Hams; sales 167 pkgs. Bacon has been in limited [illegible] including Cumberland Cut at 15c.@16c.; Short Rib at 16c.@16½c.; Long Ribbed, [illegible]; Long Clear at 16½c.@16c.; Short Clear [illegible]; Long Cut Hams at 15½c.@[illegible] boxes. Dressed Hogs continue [illegible] for City, ℔ lb. 12½c., for Western, and 11[illegible] bbls. at 14@[illegible] Lard is heavy; sales 600 [illegible] 17½c., and small lots of [illegible] for the Extra. More demand at [illegible] and $11@$14 for Plain [illegible] New Plain [illegible] sales have been reported of 500 bbls. [illegible] in quiet request. Total stock Feb. 1, 1866 [illegible] are in demand [illegible] for Western [illegible] Cheese is in fair request, partly [illegible]

RICE—Is quiet at former prices. We are indebted to Messrs. [illegible] & Co. for the following statement of the stock of Rice on hand Feb. 1, 18[illegible] [illegible] bags cleaned East India Rice, against [illegible] bags cleaned [illegible] India, and 17,000 mats uncleaned East India the same time last year.

SUGARS—Are quiet at former rates. Sales since our last 340 hhds. [illegible]

TALLOW—[illegible]

WHISKEY—[illegible] gallon.

THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION OF 1867.

[illegible]

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY.

[illegible]

GRAND HOTEL VICTORIA.

[illegible]

HUDSON RIVER INSTITUTE.

[illegible]

$100 A MONTH SALARY [illegible]

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The SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES, one year [illegible]

The WEEKLY TIMES, one year [illegible]

These prices are invariable. [illegible]

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